



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

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From the Pastor

February 2020



Preparing Ourselves for the Rest of Our Lives

"Oh, how love I Thy law! It is my meditation all the day." Psalm 119:97

Christianity is not a legal relationship; it is a love relationship. Ten thousand "don'ts" will never make us one iota more like the Lord Jesus Christ. It is our desire that moves us to be like Him. Desire is the key because this helps us want to spend time with the One who loves us. As we approach the month called "love" and the Lenten Season let me suggest five factors that can help us share some quiet time and grow with Him each day.

The Proper Period - We must find the right time. It would be great if we could spend at least half an hour in quiet time. But some time is better than no time, so if we can't start at thirty minutes, begin with ten. It should be our very best time. Don't give the Lord our leftovers. And don't just try to find time - make time and make it a priority. Also find time early in the day. Psalm 5:3 says, "... in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee, and will look up." We don't take the trip and then read the map, do we? Spend time alone with God to begin our day.

The Proper Preparation - A quiet time is fellowship with a holy God. There are a few things we can do to be prepared for this time. First, be physically alert. Find a time when the cobwebs are out of our mind and we can think clearly. Second, be mentally aware. Be focused and know He's there. Emotion doesn't really have all that much to do with it. And third, be morally pure and clean. Some people don't have a quiet time because they feel uncomfortable looking God in the face with sin in their lives. Remember He loved us before we even knew Him.

The Proper Place - Find a place where we can focus. Jesus said enter our closet and pray (*see Matthew 6:6*). That simply means find a place of isolation where we can shut the door on the world and open the windows to heaven. Jesus sought out places where He could be alone, and so should we.

The Proper Provisions - In order to have an effective quiet time, we need the right tools. Here are some tools I use: a readable Bible - invest in one with plenty of room to jot notes in the margins; a prayer journal - expect God to give us something and write it down. Also use it to record things we're praying about; a notepad - write down our daily assignments.

The Proper Procedure - Finally, may I recommend some procedures to follow in our quiet time?

Get still and quiet. The Bible says in Psalm 46:10, "*Be still, and know that I am God.*" Let's focus our mind on Him. Calm down, relax, and recognize His presence. Take a deep breath and focus our thoughts on the Lord.

Get into the Word of God. It's better to start by reading the Bible than it is to start in prayer. It is more important for us to hear from God, than for God to hear from us. God already knows all about us, but we need to know a lot more about Him. Read the Bible for quality and not quantity. It's good to have a goal to read the Bible through in a year, or something similar; but that's not the purpose of our quiet time. Also, devotional books are wonderful. But again, this is not the place for them. This is the time when we simply read the Bible with an open mind getting to know our Loving God.

Meditate. As we focus on the Word of God and meditate, let it permeate us. Ask: Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a sin to avoid? Is there a lesson to learn? Is there a new truth to carry with me? It's not being legalistic, it opens us to God's presence with and in us.

Record what God has given us. Write down what God says to us and what He tells us to do. It doesn't have to be flowery. We're not writing it for publication or to impress other people, we're writing to help ourselves grow with Him.

Now we're ready to pray. When we pray, let's pour out our soul. Be natural and honest with God. Tell Him how we feel. Pray out loud. It keeps our mind on track and enables us to stay focused.

Begin to share out of our quiet time. God did not make us to be reservoirs; He made us to be conduits. Tell others what God is showing us and let His light shine brightly in our lives.

Finally, obey what God tells us. Our spiritual train is running on two rails. One is revelation and the other is obedience. And if either rail stops, our train stops. Let's learn to obey the Word of God.

I pray these simple suggestions will help us have a daily quiet time in the presence of our loving, almighty, powerful God. As we begin anew day, let's be more intent on growing our relationship with God...He's waiting for us. Grace and peace in a new life with Christ...Pastor David



Stewardship Report 2020

Offering Report as of:		January 26, 2020
2020 Budget:	\$	TBA
Needed for 2020 Budget YTD:	\$	TBA
Budget Received YTD:	\$	TBA
Surplus/Deficit YTD:	\$	TBA
Weekly Offering Needed:	\$	N/A

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



Young at Heart

Young at Heart will meet at Andy's on February 12th at Noon. Come on and enjoy the fellowship and good food! JoAnne Mason will

be doing blood pressure checks as usual. You might just get a valentine!! So, Join Us!!



Family Night Supper

Our Family Night Suppers will be postponed during the Lenten season. They will resume on April 22nd with the Clyburn-Whitener Class hosting.



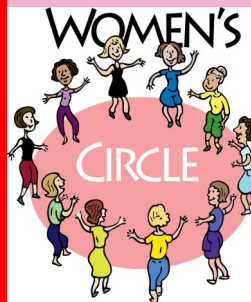
*Isn't The Love Of Jesus
Something Wonderful*



2020 Altar Flowers

Please consider placing flowers on the altar for morning worship in honor or memory of a loved one. This not only helps with our church budget but also beautifies our sanctuary. You may sign up on the calendar located by the water fountain in the Education building or by calling the church office at 427-1266.

Thank you for your help in this ministry.



Circle of Hope:

Mon., Feb. 3, 3:00 PM
Jane Moore's Home

Johnnie Sanders Circle:

Mon., Feb. 3, 10:00 AM

Lucy Lee Shuler Circle:

No Meeting

UMW General Meeting: "Call To Prayer and Self-Denial"

Sunday, February 16, 2020
at 12:00 Noon Catered Meal
*Spouses invited



Church Committee Meetings

Board of Trustees: Wednesday,
February 12, 6:00 PM

Church Council: Wednesday,
February 19, 6:00 PM



"SOUPER" Bowl February 2

Sunday, February 2, 2020, will be "Souper" Bowl Sunday. We hope members will contribute cans of soup which will be taken to Duncan Acres United Methodist Church

Food Pantry, as well as monetary donations for Meals on Wheels. Grace UMC "Souper" Bowl Boxes will be at the church entrance doors. Our Youth will be collecting donations after the service. Please make checks out to Grace UMC and designate for "Souper" Bowl Sunday. Both groups help our community, so please help us help them serve those less fortunate.

Former GUMCEP Items For Donation Purchasing

Since the closure of GUMCEP in 2018, there are now numerous children's books, puzzles, toys, and furniture, such as: tables, chairs, small desks, bookcases, and cribs still available. If you are interested in making a donation purchase of any of these items, please get in touch with Karen, Pat, or Sheryl in the church office at 864-427-1266 to arrange a convenient time to come.



Lenten Season Begins Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Once again, GUMC will be the host for the Community Lenten Service and lunch each Wednesday from Ash Wednesday, February 26th, through Holy Week, Wednesday, April 8th. Pastors from different denominations and churches will deliver the message each week. Tommy Bishop, GUMC organist/choir director, has planned special Lenten Season music. Each Lenten Service begins at 12 noon. Lunch will be served after the service. This year, Pastor David will begin our series on Ash Wednesday, February 26th. Please join fellow church and community members in attending these meaningful services in preparation for Easter.

Lenten Luncheon Planning Meeting Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 11:00 AM

Dear Ladies: we are organizing a group of ladies to plan the 2020 Lenten Lunches which are very popular with our church members as well as our community friends. This planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. in the church parlor. Lenten lunches will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020, and will continue each week until Holy Week, April 8, 2020. There are seven lunches held during this time. We hope you will be able to help us this year. During this meeting, we will designate a team leader for each lunch, plan the menu, and decide who would like to help the team leaders. We need a total of seven people to work during each lunch. As a rule, providing we receive enough volunteers, no one should have to help for more than one meal.

Please let Brenda or Karen know if you can attend this meeting. Looking forward to seeing you on February 11th. In Christ,

Karen Hibbard
Director of Ministries
864-427-1266

Brenda Childers
Hospitality Chairperson
864-427-2070

Happy Groundhog Day, Sunday,
February 2, 2020

Did he see his shadow? Or, not?



Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
Somebody loves
you,
Here's a clue.
Read John 3:16



Salkehatchie

Salke-what? What is Salkehatchie?

Salkehatchie is about hard work, making connections with families, other youth, and understanding our mission as children of God.

The Salkehatchie name comes from a river that flows through the coastal plain of South Carolina, where many of the towns and neighborhoods we serve are located. Just like the river, Salkehatchie's service follows a course through time that is influenced by location, people, circumstances and historical events.

JOHN CULP, THE FOUNDER AND EVER-PRESENT SHEPHERD, STARTED LEADING YOUTH GROUPS INTO DEDICATED SERVICE BACK IN 1978. A GROUP OF 40 UNITED METHODISTS STEPPED INTO THE LIVES OF FOUR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY SOME OF THE WORST POVERTY IN AMERICA. THEY WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR ONE WEEK RESTORING DILAPIDATED HOUSES ON THE SEA ISLANDS OF SOUTH CAROLINA. WITH ONE WEEK OF WORK, THE LIVES OF THESE YOUTH AND FAMILIES HAD BEEN FOREVER TRANSFORMED.

This small group has now transformed into 46 Camps and 2,000+ campers every summer. The Salkehatchie Summer Service is an autonomous mission supported entirely by its participants, the communities it serves, and the United Methodist Church Conference of South Carolina.

It's More Than Just a Summer Camp It's a Life Changing Week

Salkehatchie is more than just a church outreach program. It is more than just a volunteer group and it is more than just a summer youth camp. Salkehatchie is faith in action. Youth volunteers head into rural, low-income towns to work in difficult conditions, allowing themselves to be the face, hands and feet of Christ. Volunteers spend one week: Performing home repairs in teams, doing projects as small as a building a ramp or as big as remodeling an entire kitchen. *(All skill sets are welcomed and encouraged.)* Making a bond with families of different backgrounds than their own. Learning about teamwork and making friend-ships that last a lifetime. Salkehatchie strips youth of their familiar roles for seven days. Experience the significance of going unplugged, with a limited regimen in an open learning environment. You will be encouraged to do things for yourself, problem solve and learn from one another.

Salkehatchie's Union camp will be on June 20-27, 2020. Plans are already underway with getting meals scheduled at area churches and collecting requests from home owners. Preparing is really an all year thing. Rev. John Culp will be returning for the 2020 Camp at Union.



Heartprints

Author Unknown

Whatever our hands touch-
We leave fingerprints!
On walls, on furniture
On doorknobs, dishes, books.
There's no escape.
As we touch we leave our identity.

Oh God, wherever I go today
Help me leave heartprints!
Heartprints of compassion
Of understanding and love.
Heartprints of kindness
And genuine concern.
May my heart touch a lonely neighbor
Or a runaway daughter
Or an anxious mother
Or perhaps an aged grandfather.

Lord, send me out today
To leave heartprints.
And if someone should say
"I felt your touch,"
May that one sense YOUR LOVE.

AMEN

Grace UMW News

There will be an Executive Meeting on Sunday, February 2, 2020, at 3:30 pm. This meeting is to make plans for the UMW General Meeting in February and for the 2020 year.



On February 16, 2020, there will be a UMW General Meeting directly after the church service. All UMW members are encouraged to attend and spouses or significant others are invited to attend, also. The meal will be catered. There will be a guest speaker, as well as an offering taken for "*A Call To Prayer and Self-Denial*". Please contact Judy Caston at 864-441-7883, jcaston2767@gmail.com, or the church office if you wish to help. There will be sign-up sheets at the Welcome Center, both Sanctuary entrances, and in the church office if you plan to attend. In order to know the amount of food to order, please sign-up by February 10, 2020.

Our UMW program has been active for over 150 years, starting in 1879, and was recently designated as the oldest active UMW in the district. The Grace UMW biography was sent to the Spartanburg District Office to be submitted for **The Oldest Unit In Our District** last year. After being evaluated, these biographies were presented at the Annual Meeting in Greenville last October, 2019, and "Who knew"? We are the unit they celebrate! Congratulations to all our past, present, and future UMW members for making this possible! What an honor!



Sonshiners/MCF 2020 News

Grace's Sonshiners/MCF resumed Sunday, January 12, at 5:00 pm. Karen Hibbard, Margie Ruff, and Sally Summers would

be appreciative of disciple makers to teach a lesson or provide a meal for our children. A special "Thank You" is extended to those dedicated disciple makers who have volunteered to teach and provide supper for our MCF/Sonshiners in 2019. We are also grateful to our dedicated teachers: Melissa and Stewart Wagner, Dale and Larry Goff, and Ashley and Jason Turner who prepared wonderful lessons for our Sunday night programs. Sally Summers has always been willing to teach new songs to "sing and ring" as she prepares our children to perform during the worship service. **Parents**, please be certain your children from 3K – 5th grade attend each time and invite friends! The Schedule for February is:

- Feb. 2** – No meeting - Souper Bowl Sunday
- Feb. 9** – Valentine Movie Night and Supper
- Feb. 16** – No Meeting.
- Feb. 23** – Regular meeting



Sheriff and Police Appreciation Breakfast

Plans are being made for Wednesday, February 19, 2020, to show our appreciation for all of Union County's Sheriff and Police officers. A breakfast will take place at a time suitable for the officers as they begin or end their 12 hour shifts. If you are interested in helping, please let the church office know. If you are contacted, please consider helping. This will be a great opportunity to show our support for what they do to keep us safe in Union County.



Circle of Hope Back Pack Project



There are so many school children who have little or nothing to eat on weekends. The Circle of Hope started a project in 2016 to prepare back packs of food for the children to take home. The project has been both successful and rewarding. However, right now the funds are not adequate to continue through to the remainder of the school year for 2020. If you would like to make a donation, make your check out to: Grace UMW, Hope Circle and at the bottom of your check be sure to write **Back Pack Project**. Jeannette Galloway, Chairperson, would like to thank you for helping with the Back Pack Project. She can be reached at 864-441-3743. If you would like to be a part of this project, contact any member of Hope Circle.



Because We Care

Heartland Residential: Raye Hellams
 Mary Jo Rogers
 John Flynn
 Ellen Sagar: Jane and 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



Chancel Choir

Wed. Feb. 5 7:30 PM
 Wed. Feb. 12 7:30 PM
 Wed. Feb. 19 7:30 PM
 Wed. Feb. 26 7:30 PM

Bells of Grace

Sun., Feb. 2 **No Rehearsal**
 Sun., Feb. 9 5:45 PM
 Sun., Feb. 16 5:45 PM
 Sun., Feb. 23 5:45 PM

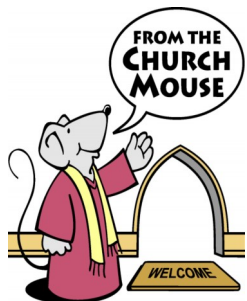


February

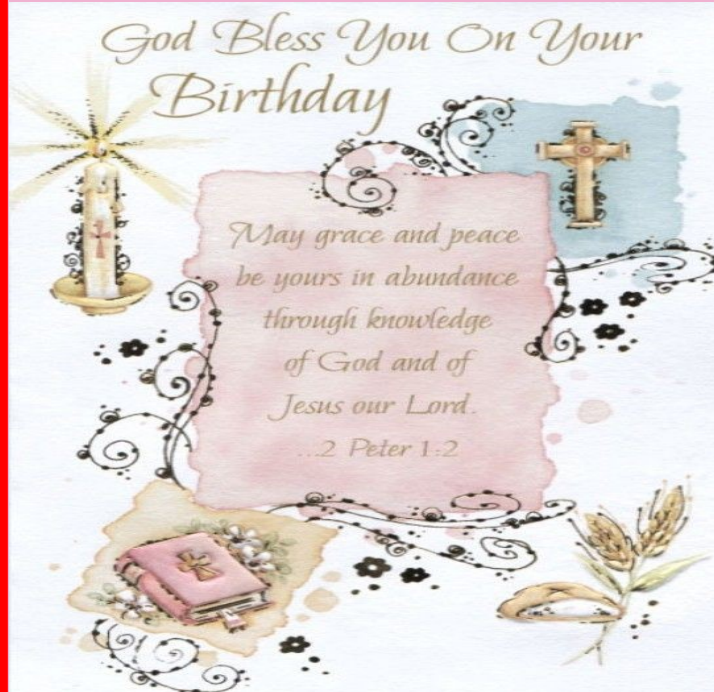
- 1 Susan Dunbar,
Ralph Thompson, Tommy Lawson
- 2 Elwood Eason, Tommy Bishop
- 3 Pat Scoggins
- 4 JoAnne Lipscomb, Pat Owens
- 6 Greyson Day, Jeremy King
- 9 David Beavans, Joseph Beavans,
Todd Brooks
- 12 Gage Ham, Hazel Lawson
- 16 Jacob Arnold, Sissy Matthews
- 20 Ben Johnston, Jenny N. Williams,
Stewart Wagner
- 24 Grayson Fallaw
- 26 David Bauknight
- 27 Donna Kell

Show me your ways,
 O LORD,
 teach me
 your paths;
 guide me
 in your truth
 and teach me,
 for you are God
 my Savior,
 and my hope
 is in you all day long.

Psalms 25:4-5



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! Keep on sending your information about what is happenin' at Grace and keep reading the newsletter for all that great Grace information! **Deadline for the February Grace Messenger will be February 19th.**





Pulpit Exchange

Grace was delighted to welcome Reverend Edgar Reynolds, III from Unity UMC to our pulpit on Sunday, January 26, 2020. His message was entitled *"New Beginnings"* and was about how you can change your life around if you accept Jesus into your life as he did. Grace is fortunate to have Fran Love who so willingly presided over the service. Thank you also to our sweet acolyte, Bayla Morrow, who always smiles and performs her duties very well.



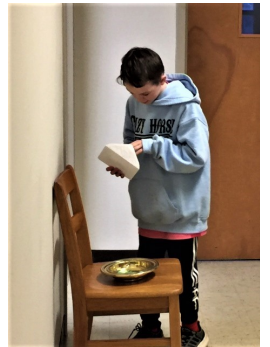
MCF/SONSHINERS LEADERS



We are fortunate to have willing teachers to teach our children on Sunday afternoons. We have been using the ***Dig In*** curriculum which allows each teacher to choose activities based on time, teacher strengths, and the children's interests. Melissa and Stewart Wagner, Ashley and Jason Turner, Dale and Larry Goff, Sally Summers,



Margie Ruff, and Karen Hibbard are our wonderful disciple makers. We are truly grateful for their service and ministry to our young children. In a recent lesson taught by Ashley and Jason Turner, the children learned that "God loves a cheerful giver", 2 Corinthians 9:7. They learned that they must decide in their heart what they want to give, as the pictures illustrate.



SO TODAY AT CHURCH A GUY IN A SUIT TRIED TO DROWN ME



A Valentine From God

For God
SO LOVED THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE HIS
ONLY
BEGOTTEN
SON SO
THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES
IN HIM SHALL
HAVE EVERLASTING
Life



John 3:16

All Area Churches Are Invited to What's Happening at Buffalo UMC

Hey Everybody,

All Union area churches are invited to join Buffalo UMC for the following activities:

Parsonage Open House: On Sunday, February 2, 2020, Buffalo UMC welcomes everyone to the parsonage where we will have an Open House from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. There will be refreshments. Please park to the right of the church. The parsonage is just after the parking lot on the right.

Revival, February 9-11, 2020: Begins with the Sunday Morning Worship Service and continues for three nights at 7:00 pm. Our event is entitled **Ignite: fanning the Flame of Faith.** Rev. Gerald Walton from Mt. Hebron UMC in West Columbia will be our preacher for the three days.

Weekly Afternoon Fellowship: Beginning February 18th and every Tuesday afternoon from 1:00 - 4:00 pm there will be fellowship at the Harold Settles Activity Building, 419 Church Street, Buffalo, S.C. There will be music, crafts, mission projects, and just a time to socialize. All adult men and women are invited to participate. Bring friends along with you and join us.



Six Week Grief Support Group: The support group will meet on Mondays, March 2 - April 6, 2020, from 10:00 - 11:30 am at Buffalo UMC. Please enter through the sanctuary door. The leader will be Grief Specialist and former Hospice Chaplain, Pastor Miriam Mick. Please call Pastor Miriam Mick to register at 803-487-1114.
*If you've lost a loved one within the last month, Pastor Miriam feels it's too soon for you to participate.

These events are being offered with our community in mind.

Peace, Rev. Miriam Mick

Springtime By The Sea

Experiencing History, Cultures, and People

May 18-21, 2020

Epworth By The Sea ~ St. Simons Island, Georgia

Monday

4:00 pm Registration
5:30-7 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Welcome
7:15 pm "As The Tide Turns": Georgia's Coastal Wildlife



*Lovely Lane Chapel will
be open for personal
devotions Mon.-Weds.,*



8:30-10:00 PM



**Epworth
by the Sea**

More Information and Online Registration: www.epworthbythesea.org

or call 912-638-8688

Tuesday

7:00-9:00 am Breakfast
8:30 am Depart for Jekyll Island State Park
9:30-10:15 am Visit Mosaic Museum
10:15-11:45 am Tram Tour-National Landmark Historic District
12:00-1:00 pm Lunch on Jekyll Island
1:15-2:00 pm Walk the Wanderer Memorial Trail
2:15-3:15 pm Explore the Historic District
3:30-5:00 pm Dolphin Tour
6:00 pm Dinner at Epworth
7:30 pm Evening at your leisure.

Wednesday

7:00-9:00 am Breakfast
8:30 am Depart for Florida
9:30-10:30 am Tour Kingsley Plantation grounds
11:30 am *Lunch at Amelia Island Museum of History
12:15-1:45 pm "Timuc-a-Who?" Museum Talk/Tour
2:00-3:00 pm Explore historic Center Street, Fernandina Beach
3:30 pm Return to Epworth
5:00 pm Tabby/Prayer Garden Reception at Epworth
6:00-7:00 pm Dinner
7:30 pm Program-Youth Chamber Orchestra Ensemble

Thursday 7:00-9:00 am Breakfast and Departure

SHMILY

By Laura Jeanne Allen

My grandparents were married for over half a century, and played their own special game from the time they had met each other. The goal of their game was to write the word "shmily" in a surprise place for the other to find. They took turns leaving "shmily" around the house, and as soon as one of them discovered it, it was their turn to hide it once more.

They dragged "shmily" with their fingers through the sugar and flour containers to await whoever was preparing the next meal. They smeared it in the dew on the windows overlooking the patio where my grandma always fed us warm, homemade pudding with blue food coloring. "Shmily" was written in the steam left on the mirror after a hot shower, where it would reappear bath after bath. At one point, my grandmother even unrolled an entire roll of toilet paper to leave "shmily" on the very last sheet.

There was no end to the places "shmily" would pop up. Little notes with "shmily" scribbled hurriedly were found on dashboards, and car seats, or taped to steering wheels. The notes were stuffed inside shoes and left under pillows. "Shmily" was written in the dust upon the mantel and traced in the ashes of the fireplace. This mysterious word was as much a part of my grandparents' house as the furniture.

It took me a long time before I was able to fully appreciate my grandparents' game. Skepticism has kept me from believing in true love one, that is pure and enduring. However, I never doubted my grandparents' relationship. They had love down pat. It was more than their flirtatious little games; it was a way of life. Their relationship was based on a devotion and passionate affection which not everyone is lucky to experience.

Grandma and Grandpa held hands every chance they could. They stole kisses as they bumped into each other in their tiny kitchen. They finished each other's sentences and shared the daily crossword puzzle and word jumble. My grandma whispered to me about how cute my grandpa was, how handsome an old man he had grown to be. She claimed that she really knew "how to pick 'em." Before every meal they bowed their heads and gave thanks, marveling at their blessings: a wonderful family, good fortune, and each other.

But there was a dark cloud in my grandparents' life: my grandmother had breast cancer. The disease had first appeared ten years earlier. As always, Grandpa was with her every step of the way. He comforted her in their yellow room, painted that way so that she could always be surrounded by sunshine, even when she was too sick to go outside.

Now the cancer was again attacking her body. With the help of a cane and my grandfather's steady hand, they went to church every morning. But my grandmother grew steadily weaker until, finally, she could not leave the house anymore. For a while, Grandpa would go to church alone, praying to God to watch over his wife. Then one day, what we all dreaded finally happened. Grandma was gone.

"Shmily." It was scrawled in yellow on the pink ribbons of my grandmother's funeral bouquet. As the crowd thinned and the last mourners turned to leave, my aunts, uncles, cousins and other family members came forward and gathered around Grandma one last time. Grandpa stepped up to my grandmother's casket and, taking a shaky breath, he began to sing to her. Through his tears and grief, the song came, a deep and throaty lullaby.

Shaking with my own sorrow, I will never forget that moment. For I knew that, although I couldn't begin to fathom the depth of their love, I had been privileged to witness its unmatched beauty.

S-H-M-I-L-Y!

Answer: S-h-m-i-l-y: See How Much I Love You.



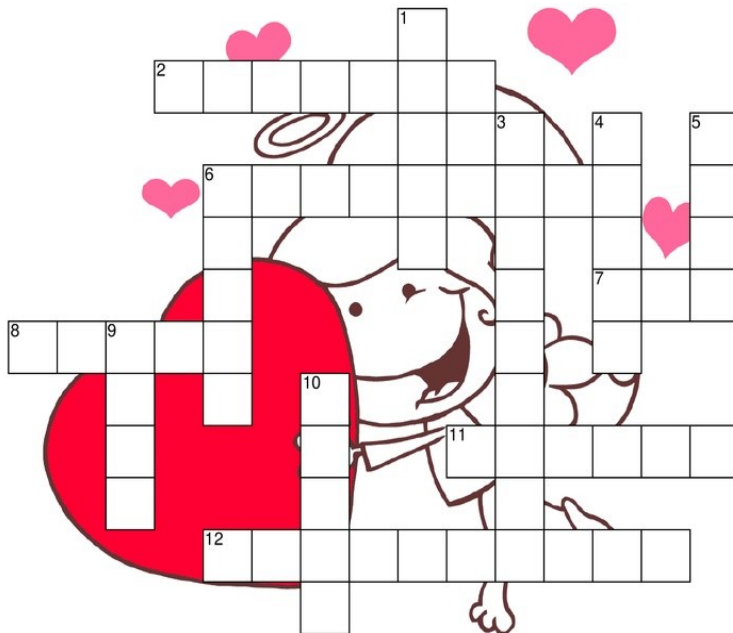
THE GRACE MESSENGER

Grace United Methodist Church
201 South Church Street
Union, SC 29379
E-mail: mail@graceunion.org



Valentine's Day Crossword Puzzle

www.KidsCanHaveFun.com



Across

2. They smell beautiful and we love to give them out on Valentine's Day.
6. This type of candy is brown and yummy.
7. The color of Valentine's Day.
8. He flies and shoots arrows.
11. We use this to tie around boxes.
12. We call someone special this name on Valentine's.

Down

1. Cupid uses this to shoot with a bow.
3. Will you be my _____?
4. Valentine's Day shape.
5. We hand this out to friends and family on Valentine's.
6. It tastes sweet and we love to receive it.
9. Another color for Valentine's Day.
10. These flowers are red and have petals and thorns.

St. Valentine's Day

Match the words to the correct pictures and complete the crossword. Then find a secret message.

