



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 2021

Lent 101 *(from the Upper Room)*

Lent is a season of the Christian Year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God.

When is Lent? It's the forty days before Easter (excluding Sundays because every Sunday is like a little Easter.) Basically, it's about one-tenth of a year (like a tithe of time). Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (February 17th) and ends on Easter (April 4th).

Mardi Gras? What does that have to do with JESUS? Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday." It refers to the day before Lent starts. Since Lent always starts on a Wednesday, the day before is always a Tuesday. It's called "Fat" or "Great" because it's associated with great food and parties. In earlier times, people used Lent as a time of fasting and repentance. Since they didn't want to be tempted by sweets, meat and other distractions in the house, they cleaned out their cabinets. They used up all the sugar and yeast in sweet breads before the Lent season began, and fixed meals with all the meat available. It was a great feast! Through the years Mardi Gras has evolved (*in some places*) into a pretty wild party with little to do with preparing for the Lenten season of repentance and simplicity. But Christians still know it's origin, and hang onto the true Spirit of the season.

The real beginning of Lent is Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday, the day after Mardi Gras, usually begins with a service where we recognize our mortality, repent of our sins, and return to our loving God. We recognize life as a precious gift from God, and return our lives towards Jesus Christ. We may make resolutions and commit to change our lives over the next forty days so that we might be more like Christ. In an Ash Wednesday service, the minister marks the sign of the cross on a person's forehead with ashes.

Why ashes? In Jewish and Christian history, ashes are a sign of mortality and repentance. Mortality, because when we die, our bodies eventually decompose and we become dust/dirt/ash/whatever. Repentance, because long ago, when people felt remorse for something they did, they would put ashes on their head and wear "sackcloth" (scratchy clothing) to remind them that sin is pretty uncomfortable and leads to a sort of death of the spirit. This was their way of confessing their sins and asking for forgiveness.

Where do the ashes come from? On Palm Sunday, Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem while people waved palms and cheered him on. Less than a week later, Jesus was killed. The palms that were waved in joy became ashes of sorrow. We save the previous year's palms (from Palm Sunday) & burn them to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

What do Christians do with ashes? At an Ash Wednesday service, folks are invited to receive the sign of a small ash cross on their foreheads. While the ashes remind us of our mortality and sin, the cross reminds us of Jesus' *resurrection (life after death)* and forgiveness. It's a powerful, non-verbal way that we can experience God's forgiveness and renewal as we return to Jesus.

So, what is LENT? At Jesus' baptism the sky split open, the Spirit of God, which looked like a dove, descended and landed on Jesus, and a voice from heaven said, "*This is my Son, My Beloved, with whom I am pleased.*" Afterward, as told in Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus was sent into the wilderness by the Spirit where he fasted and prayed for 40 days. During his time there he was tempted by Satan and found clarity and strength to resist temptation. Afterwards, he was ready to begin his ministry. The Lenten Season is our reminder that we, too, are tempted by Satan & with God's strength we can live faithfully like Jesus.

Why "DO" Lent? How do I start? Are you searching for something more? Tired of running in circles, but not really living life with direction, purpose or passion? It's pretty easy to get caught up in the drama of classes, relationships, family, and work. Our lives are filled with distractions that take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill the emptiness inside us with mindless TV, meaningless chatter, stimulants, alcohol, too many activities or other irrelevant stuff. We run away from life and from God. Lent is a great time to "repent" -- *to return to God and re-focus our lives to be more in line with Jesus.* Lent offers us 40 days to reorient our life and to have a change of heart. Some practices we can use for Lent: **FASTING:** Some people have been known to go without food for days. But that's not the only way to fast. You can fast by cutting out some of the things in your life that distract you from God. Some Christians use the whole 40 days to fast from candy, TV, soft drinks, cigarettes or meat as a way to purify their bodies and lives. You might skip one meal a day and use that time to pray instead. Or you can give up some *activity* like worry or reality TV to spend time outside enjoying God's creation. What do you need to let go of or "fast" from in order to focus on God? What clutters your calendar and life? How can you simplify your life in terms of what you eat, wear or do? By letting go of something that keeps us from God we can also take up something that brings us closer to God. **SERVICE:** Some Christians take something on *for* Christ. You can collect food for the needy, volunteer once a week to tutor children, or work for reform and justice in your community. You can commit to help a different stranger, co-worker or friend everyday of Lent. Serving others is one way we serve God. **PRAYER:** Christians also use Lent as a time of intentional prayer. You can pray while you walk, create music or art as a prayer to God, or savor a time of quiet listening. All can be ways of becoming more in tune with God. We have a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Lent as we use this time to grow closer to God. *Blessings & strength...Pastor David*



Stewardship as of January 24, 2021

Offering Report as of:		January 24, 2021
2021 Budget:	\$	379,036.00
Needed for 2021 Budget YTD:	\$	29,156.62
Budget Received YTD:	\$	22,763.05
Surplus/Deficit YTD:	\$	-6,393.57
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 besides bringing to the worship service: mail to the church or use Vanco (Grace UMC QR Code for online giving on left)

FINAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR 2020

Offering Report for Year 2020:		
2020 Operations Budget:	\$	379,325.00
Budget Received End-of-Year:	\$	337,616.16
Surplus/Deficit End-of-Year:	\$	-41,708.84

Chancel Choir



Bells of Grace



There will be **NO** Choir or Handbell rehearsals during the month of February.

Family Night Supper

We are still within the continuing virus pandemic so there will be **NO** Family Night Supper in February.



UMW NEWS

Circle of Hope
Johnnie Sanders Circle
Lucy Lee Shuler Circle

There will be **NO** circle meetings in February.



Please remember, as we are still under the pandemic situation and unable to gather together, it is most important that we circle members remember to still give your pledges to Fran Love. January was the start of a new pledge year, so contact your circle's member in charge of pledges and let her know your new pledge for the year. They are: **Lucy Lee Shuler - Frances J. Adams 864-426-3226; Circle of Hope - Cathy Staniewicz 864-441-0026; Johnnie Sanders - Mary Lou Gregory 864-274-7168.** Mail to: Fran Love, 109 Carter Street, Union, SC 29379. (Add circle you belong to) Grace's UMW supports five missions and other causes, so please consider your pledge for 2021.

Thank you, Judy Caston
UMW President



"SOUPER" Bowl Sunday Drive-Through February 7, 2021

"Souper" Bowl Sunday is the day we collect soup cans and monetary donations. The soup is taken to Duncan Acres United Methodist Church Food Pantry. The monetary donations are for Meals on Wheels. Grace UMC's "Souper" Bowl will not take place at the church as usual this year. Please bring your cans of soup to Grace's drive-through drop-off on Sunday, February 7th, from 2:00 - 3:00 pm at the church. Please enter the driveway beside the Education Building. We will be there to take your donations. If this date and time is not convenient, please call Karen Hibbard (864-426-1655) and arrange a time to drop off your donations. For monetary donations, please make checks out to **Grace UMC** and designate for **"Souper" Bowl Sunday**. You can either mail them in, drop in post office box at door, or come when we collect soup cans. Both groups help our community, so please help us help them serve those less fortunate.



Young@HeART



There will be **NO** Young at Heart Luncheon in February due to the continuing pandemic.

Can You Find This Heart?



You can find me if you dare, I could be just about anywhere! Take a look and you will see, There is only **ONE** of **ME**! Have fun! (Answer also hidden!)



Because We Care

Ellen Sagar:	Bernard Bishop
Summit Hills, Sptbg:	Elwood Eason
White Oak, Sptbg.:	Dr. Bob Kincheloe
Home:	James and Ruth Roof
Inverness, Sptbg.:	Hazel Howell
Cumberland Village,	
Aiken:	Carolyn and Johnny Turner
Heartland:	Ola Jean Kelly
Amy Bruce:	P. O. Box 15, Fingerville, SC 29338

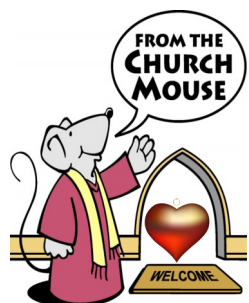


CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT 01-24-21

The Church Council met on Sunday, January 24, 2021, via ZOOM and discussed the current information available regarding COVID-19 within our county and how it relates to the state. This pandemic is currently affecting Union very strongly, and, it was therefore unanimously decided to hold off church services during February. The church office will also be closed with only sporadic moments when the staff must be present to continue the work of the church. Another Church Council meeting will be held at the end of February to determine what takes place in March. We appreciate your understanding. Any questions, please give one of us a call.

THE GRACE MESSENGER

The Grace Messenger is attempting to bring you as much information as possible each month while we deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. That means I really could use your help. Please help by responding to requests, give us any kind of suggestions, or let 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.

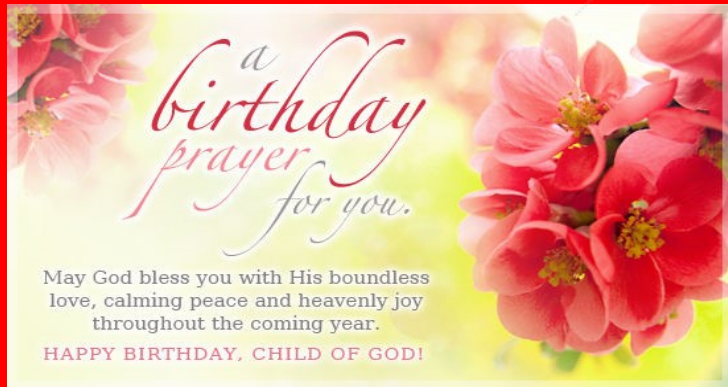


REMEMBER: Send in your admissions by the middle of the month!

Deadline for the March 2021 Grace Messenger will be February 17th.

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 Law-
son
- 16 Jacob Arnold, Sissy
Matthews
- 20 Ben Johnston, Jenny N.
Williams, Stewart Wag-
ner
- 24 Grayson Fallaw



Office Staff at Work

Hello!, from Pat,
Sheryl, and Karen!

We will still be out of the office during regular hours in February, but we're still working and available when needed. Just give one of us a call at: Pat: 864-426-0263; Sheryl: 864-426-2123; or Karen: 864-426-1655.



Lenten Season Begins Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021

The Season of Lent has always been a very popular time of year at Grace where we and the community meet at 12 noon for a Lenten Worship Service and then have a delicious meal made by the Lenten Ladies of our church. This year, with COVID-19 still very prevalent, the Church Council determined that during the Lenten season there should be no in-house Wednesday Lenten services or luncheons. Instead, Pastor David will be delivering a Lenten Meditation each Wednesday at 12:00 noon in the same fashion as he does our Sunday services, first LIVE on Facebook, then on YouTube and the website. The first Lenten Meditation will be on Ash Wednesday, February 17th, and Pastor David has asked for you to be prepared by having some ashes available when you join the service. These meditation services will be on Wednesdays:

February 17 and 24

March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31

April 4 is EASTER

We hope you will watch and participate in each Lenten Service and remind family members and friends to do so too!

KEEP PRAYING
for your family and
friends.

GOD
is hearing
you.



Little Church Mouse
© Ged Backland / Hutch 2016

President's Day

By: Andrea Crawford

Today we honor two presidents
Who helped our great country
To become a nation to freely live,
A home for you and me.

George Washington led the way
For all of us to be free.
That is why he is known
As the Father of Our Country.

Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president.
He helped all people be free
To live and work each day.
He was as honest as can be!

Thank you to all of the presidents
Who helped shape our country.
We honor you on this day
For helping us be free!



© Andrea Crawford, Reading Toward the Stars, 2013
Border by: Clip Art by Carrie

Happy Groundhog Day

February 2, 2021



HE SAYS IT'S TOO COLD TO COME OUT OF HIS HOLE, SO HE'S DECIDED
TO MAKE HIS PREDICTION VIA TWITTER

I love you ...

You are mine ...

Your name is written upon My heart

Your prayers are precious to Me .

Your life is in My hands .

I am always with you.

I am nearer to you than
your own heart.

I gave My life so that you
might live forever with me

So can I ask you to be
mine ?

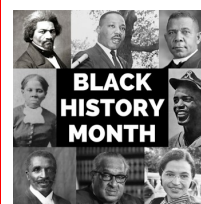
Jesus



Rita

February is

Black History Month



Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans.

Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.



The E-Mail Newsletter for United Methodist Leaders



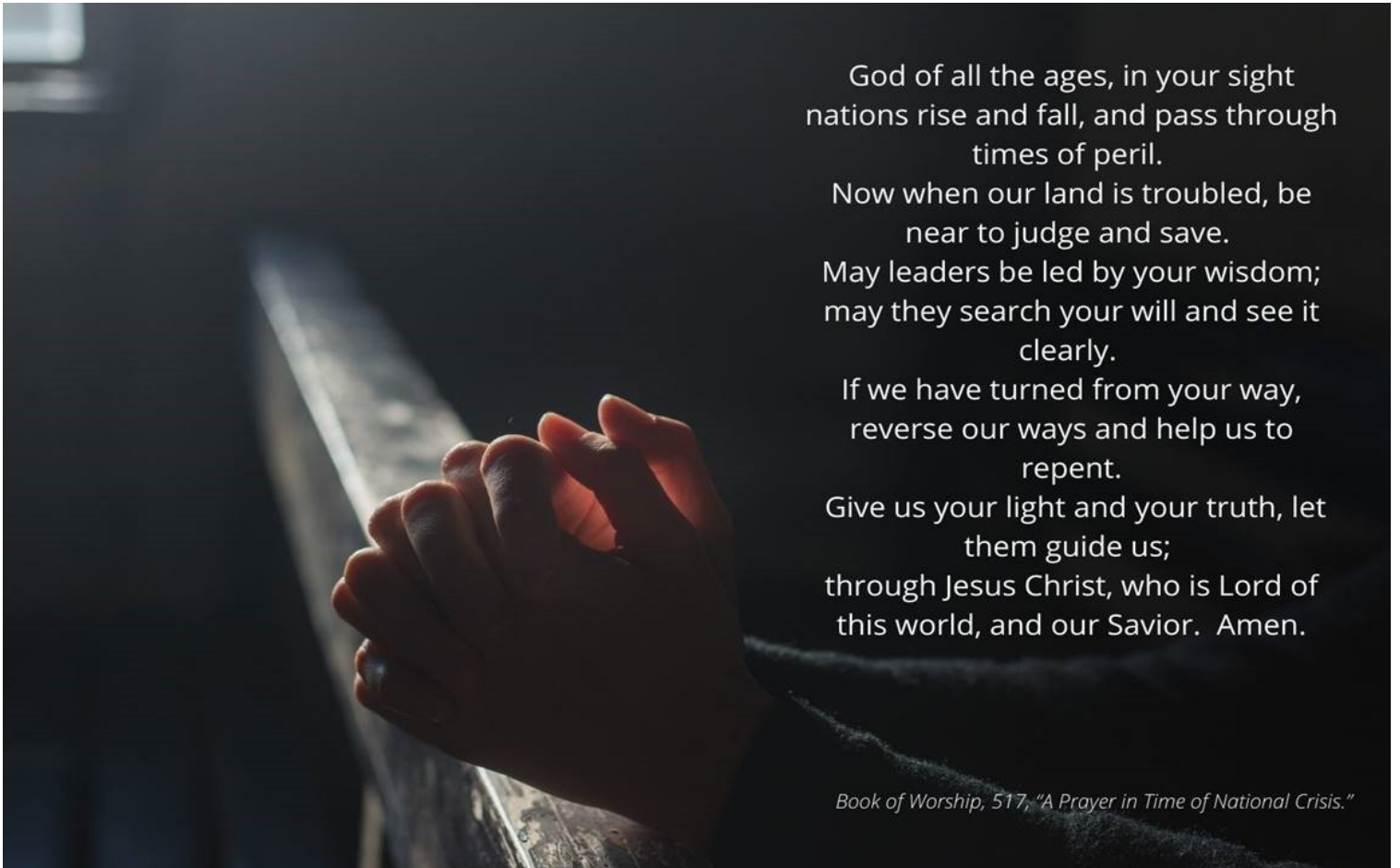
Open hearts. Open Minds. Open doors.
The people of the United Methodist Church.

A prayer in time of national crisis

United Methodist Communications

In this prayer from The United Methodist Church's Book of Worship, 517, we seek God's direction and enlightenment for our nation as it experiences turmoil and conflict. Take a moment to say and reflect upon the prayer and share it with others.

Let us pray.



God of all the ages, in your sight
nations rise and fall, and pass through
times of peril.

Now when our land is troubled, be
near to judge and save.

May leaders be led by your wisdom;
may they search your will and see it
clearly.

If we have turned from your way,
reverse our ways and help us to
repent.

Give us your light and your truth, let
them guide us;

through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of
this world, and our Savior. Amen.

Book of Worship, 517, "A Prayer in Time of National Crisis."

Canva image by Crystal Caviness, United Methodist Communications.

This content was produced by [United Methodist Communications](https://www.umc.org/communications).

A Valentine Story

This is a neat story that the children all enjoy each year. As you read the story, you tear a heart as you read the part about the mouse nibbling and chewing. You will need a large piece of paper (9x12) and fold it in half horizontally. The first heart will need to be a big one to have space to make the other hearts in the story. It is a good idea to practice on this before you do it with the kids. You can glue the last heart for Melanie Mouse on a large, white paper or paper doily.



Melanie Mouse's Valentine

One morning, just before Valentine's Day, Melanie Mouse was sweeping her porch when a large piece of red paper blew past her. She ran after it. "This will make a fine valentine to decorate my home," she thought as she carried the paper to her house. Once inside, she set to work making her valentine. She carefully folded it exactly in half, then she nibbled and chewed, chewed and nibbled, until she created a big, red heart.

"This would make a lovely valentine for Mr. Bear," she thought as she admired the heart. "It is very large, just like he is. It would brighten up the old, dark cave he lives in. But this is all the paper I have." She scratched her head with her little mouse claws, then she smiled. She had an idea. She took the heart, folded it, then nibbled and chewed, chewed and nibbled. When she finished, she had made a smaller heart from the middle of Mr. Bear's valentine. "Now I have a big heart for Mr. Bear and a smaller heart for me." She was about to hang her valentine on a wall when she thought of Rabbit.

"This smaller heart would be perfect for Rabbit," Melanie said aloud. "He lives in the hole in the garden, all by himself. But I would like a valentine, too. Maybe I can make a heart for Rabbit and for me." Melanie Mouse folded the heart and nibbled and chewed, chewed and nibbled until she had a smaller heart cut from the other. "Now I have two hearts -- a valentine for Rabbit and a smaller heart for me. But, just as she was about to hang up her heart, she thought of Robin. "Mrs. Robin wakes me each morning with her lovely singing. I would like her to have this valentine. Perhaps I can still make a smaller one for me." Melanie folded her heart and nibbled and chewed, chewed and nibbled until she had two hearts. As she was finishing, there was a knock on her door. When Melanie opened it, there stood Mo Mouse with big, wet tears soaking his furry cheeks. "Why Mo Mouse, what's the matter?" she asked as she brought him inside.

"Oh, Auntie, I haven't gotten a single valentine. And, all my friends have!" Mo cried! Melanie put her arm around Mo, then sat him in a big, cozy chair. "I have a valentine just for you. It's the perfect size for a little mouse," said Melanie as she gave him her valentine. The little mouse-sized heart made Mo smile. He thanked her with a hug and skipped off to show his friends. Melanie gave a soft sigh...She was glad she made Mo happy, but she wanted a valentine to decorate her house. Then she had a wonderful idea. She could have a valentine after all! She picked up the scrap of paper from which Mr. Bear's heart had been cut and glue a fancy white doily behind it. It was a beautiful special valentine all her own. And, it looked just perfect on her wall.





Will Long received two awards during the 2020 JFD Christmas party. He was voted Firefighter of the Year by his fellow firefighters and was also given the Top Dog Award. (Joni Long photo)

GOOD JOB!



Patrick Long was selected 2020 Officer of the Year for the Jonesville Fire District. (Joni Long photo)



AWESOME!

See it here!
They're in the news!
Awesome!!



Spelling bee champion Carson Jolly, first runner-up Quinton Wilkes and second runner-up Cameron Todd.

Jolly wins spelling bee



Third grade class winners: Carson Jolly, Quinton Wilkes, Mason Rodriguez and Chad Ostwalt.

hooray!



Union County Clerk of Court Melanie Lawson swears in Southside Fire Department Board of Directors members Phillip Arnold, Russell Trammell and Mark Smith. (Photo courtesy of Chief Michael Lancaster)

Congratulations!



WOW!



READ ALL ABOUT IT We Found More!



Ralph Greer's "Reflections"

Editor's note: This column was originally published on Jan. 30, 2012.



I never cease to be amazed how some things trigger vivid memories of my youth when I have to have a list in order to remember what to pick up at the grocery store.

I go by my grandparents' house on Blassengame Street several times a week and just about every time I do some memory comes to mind.



Reflections

By Ralph Greer

There is grass in the yard now but when I was growing up my Grandmother, Emma Caroline Wood, kept the yard grass free using a homemade brush broom of straw gathered during walks we made in the woods off Long Twelve.



Waiting
On
YOU!!



Rose Hill Candlelight Society



the best thing about
Memories
is making them



ANNA-KATHERINE BAILEY LONG

Anna-Katherine Bailey Long, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Wesley Long, is a sophomore at Converse College. She was presented by her father, Mr. Long. Her escort was Mr. Matthew Creighton Ivey.

Three sons were presented at the ball:
Mr. Grant Thomas Berry, grandson of Mr. and Mrs.

Thomas Lee Sinclair, is a student at Clemson University.

Mr. Patrick Alman Long, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Wesley Long, is a student at Spartanburg Community College.

Mr. William Gossett Long, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Wesley Long, is a student at Spartanburg Community College.

Three brides and grooms were presented at the ball:

Mr. and Mrs. Cole Martin Heatherly of Hartsville,

South Carolina, are the daughter and son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Irvin Kelly. Mrs. Heatherly is a graduate of Winthrop University and is currently a graduate student at The University of South Carolina- Columbia. Mr. Heatherly is a graduate of Winthrop University with a Bachelor's degree and The University of South Carolina-Columbia with a Master's degree. Mr. Heatherly is employed by Coker University.

The Rose Hill Candlelight Society held its annual ball on January 2, 2021 at the Spartanburg Marriott at Renaissance Park, Spartanburg.

Board members of the Rose Hill Candlelight Society are Mrs. Taylor Lynn Gibbs, President; Mrs. Sammy Gus Diamaduros, Vice President; Mrs. James Richard Knight, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Matthew John Flood, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Lewis Dustin Harmon, Treasurer; Mrs. Philip David Maness, Ball Chairman; Mrs. James Wesley Long, Decorations Chairman; Mrs. Stanley O'Neil Vanderford, Mothers' Chairman; Mrs. Paul Hayne Wilkes, III, Presentation/Grand March Chairman; Mrs. Brett Owens Anthony, Scrapbook/Publicity Chairman; and Mrs. Bradley O'Neil Valentine, Ex-Officio President.

LOVE IT!



THE GRACE MESSENGER

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



BIBLE SWEETHEARTS

Match Game

Connect the men on the left to their sweethearts on the right.

- | | | | |
|---------------|---|-------|--------------|
| 1. ADAM | & | _____ | A. SARAH |
| 2. JOSEPH | & | _____ | B. NAOMI |
| 3. SAMPSON | & | _____ | C. REBECAH |
| 4. ABRAHAM | & | _____ | D. RACHEL |
| 5. ZACHARIAS | & | _____ | E. JEZEBEL |
| 6. BOAZ | & | _____ | F. SAPPHIRA |
| 7. URIAH | & | _____ | G. DRUSILLA |
| 8. NABAL | & | _____ | H. EVE |
| 9. JACOB | & | _____ | I. MARY |
| 10. AHAB | & | _____ | J. DELILAH |
| 11. FELIX | & | _____ | K. ABIGAIL |
| 12. HEBER | & | _____ | L. BATHSHEBA |
| 13. ISAAC | & | _____ | M. RAHAB |
| 14. ANANIAS | & | _____ | N. RUTH |
| 15. ELIMELECH | & | _____ | O. Jael |
| | | | P. ELISABETH |

Valentine Word Search
<http://thatbaldchick.com>

g s f n o t e s t y f n
e t a l o c o h c r s e
n a s i o g n i r d g t
i r h o n w b a n r r s
t r a e h t e e w s e s
n o g l a b i r m s d e
e w y i y r o b s i a c
l d p d f r t i e i n r
a e d i n t k s s i c e
v e d p n a s l o v e t
t s g u h k c a r d t a
d c f c r r g e a l d a

arrow
red
cupid
love
candy
gifts
secret

sweetheart
roses
saint
ring
chocolate
card

valentine
hugs
dance
friends
flowers
fun

be mine
kisses
teddy bear
hearts
pink
notes

