

THE GRACE MESSENGER

Grace United Methodist Church

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

P. O. Box 446, Union, South Carolina 29379

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Rev. David Bauknight., Pastor

Cell: 803-480-2153

From The Pastor

July 2018

Freedom in Christ “The Fire of our Works”



I nearly blew up the Fourth of July. Well, not the holiday, just the party at my cousin's house when I was much younger. We would gather at my cousin's house “*cross the creek*” in the afternoon and prepare everything for the all-night barbeque. While some prepared for the barbeque, others moved the cows and horses across the road, so we could use the big pasture for the evening and midnight fireworks display. It was amazing what folks would bring! There were big bags and boxes of giant bottle rockets, roman candles, fire crackers, cherry bombs (*remember those??*) sparklers, fountains, and other color-shooting fare. We'd dump our arsenals on an old ratty blanket and sit in the grass, taking turns launching the flaming orbs into the air. The spent fireworks littered the ground with paper and cardboard and filled the night air with acrid smoke. It was glorious! And this one particular year I wanted to make a huge splash (*cue the dramatic music*).

Somewhere in the excitement, I thought it would be the perfect time to bring out my special fireworks. Yes, the sparklers, bottle rockets, and other pretty colorful explosions were wonderful, but it was time to take things up a notch. Things needed to be, well, *BIGGER and BRIGHTER!* There'd be nothing mundane about this moment of greatness at our Fourth of July fireworks celebration.

You see, I found one of those perfect Chinese-made, powder-stuffed wonders. I have no idea what it was called, but it was a green plastic rocket about two inches in diameter and about a foot long with three ominous looking fins sticking out. The packaging promised showers of sparks as it rose into the sky, a loud report (*code for explosion*), and an unforgettable display of color. Some might say spending twelve bucks on one moment of awesomeness is a bit excessive. I just saw it as a small price to pay for a “Green Wonder Rocket” and the following amazement.

When we arrived at my cousin's, I plopped that bad boy on the ratty blanket and waited. There were the usual dozen or so puny pops and whistles, the colorful bottle rockets, firecrackers and “all such as that.” This only induced more eagerness to bring out my *pièce de résistance*. Everyone was really enjoying the lightshow, but they had no idea what real excitement awaited them.

Finally, my time came...my moment of triumph. I marched with my firework contraption into the pasture and decided to go just a little further. I made sure the ground was level because the “Green Wonder” needed the perfect launching pad so that the mystery rocket would fire straight up offering the world a magnificent display.

When I lit the fuse we took off running. To this day, I have no idea what exactly happened. I followed the instructions on the wrapper, and yet the “Green Wonder's” shower of sparks weren't enough to get it off the ground. Instead, it limped across the pasture with a pathetic whimper and shot straight toward the blanket full of fireworks.

I've never seen folks scatter so fast. People screamed, running in every direction. “It was a conundrum of screaming skedaddlers.” Oh, praise God on that night He had so much mercy. At least, that's the best way I can explain how a shower of sparks and flame didn't set off any of the other fireworks or burn anyone. Whew! That was some excitement!

Too often, we sometimes act like I did on that July 4th. We want our service, our gift, our moment to be more awesome than anyone else's. We compare what we're doing with what someone else is doing to see how we stack up. More often than not, that's exactly the point where things go “BOOM.”

This is where we find that freedom in Christ begins with humility. We're meant to keep our eyes on Him, so much so, that we aren't able to compare ourselves (or what we are doing) with others. One person may preach the gospel to an entire nation and another may work with gospel-saturated hands in a tiny community. One may write books that sell millions of copies and another may have a blog that only ten people read.

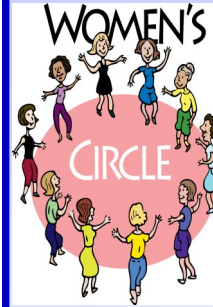
We don't need “Green Wonders” to make a big splash with God. We need only to surrender to the One who made us. That's what sets us free, praise God! Enjoy this 4th of July with your eyes on Christ. Blessings, Pastor David.



Stewardship Report 2017

Offering Report as of	June 24, 2018
2018 Budget -	\$ 375,516.00
Needed for 2018 Budget Y-T-D -	\$ 173,315.08
Budget Rec'd Y-T-D -	\$ 162,073.16
Surplus/Deficit Y-T-D -	\$ -11,241.92
Weekly Offering Needed -	\$ 7,221.46
Expenses Y-T-D -	\$ _____

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



Circle of Hope:

No Meeting until September

Johnnie Sanders Circle:

No Meeting until September

Lucy Lee Shuler Circle:

No Meeting until September

Young at Heart

Join us at Andy's on Wednesday, July 11th, at 12 noon for good food, fellowship, and a delicious dessert baked by Brenda Childers!! We are grateful to Joanne Mason who so willingly monitors blood pressure for our members at each meeting. We hope to see everyone on July 11th. Please invite other Grace members to join us!



**Specializing in
Just About
Anything to
Better GRACE!**



Family Night Supper

We will take a summer break from Family Night Supper in July. We will resume on August 22, 2018, at 6:00 PM. Hosts will be the Upper Room Class. Have a great summer!

Fellowship Dinner



Acolyte of the Month - July Cullen Morrow

Cullen Morrow is our special acolyte for the month of July. Cullen is a rising second grader at Monarch Elementary School. He loves to sing and enjoys riding his four wheeler! This is Cullen's first year to serve as an acolyte. We look forward to his continued service for years to come!

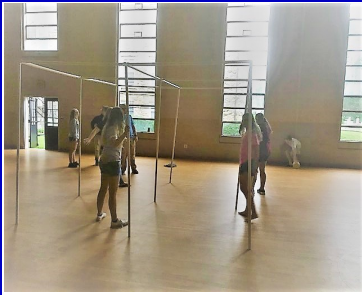
**Thank you, Cullen, for
being a great acolyte!**



The Gospel according to Tennessee

An excited group of 14 Grace members hopped on our church van to attend the Nar-roway Dinner Show, "The Gospel According to Tennessee", on Saturday, June 23rd. We enjoyed a wonderful meal graciously served by the actors themselves, fun fellowship, and top notch entertainment!



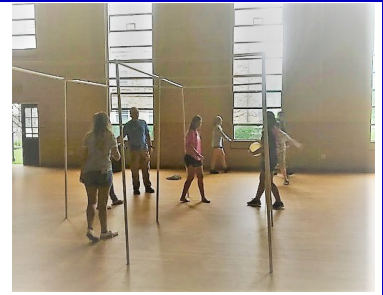


The Reconnection Youth Group

By Grayson Fallaw

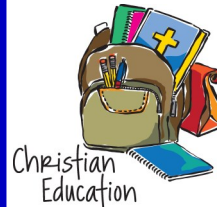
The Reconnection Youth Group has grown from zero to eight members in just a month.

We are so excited to be able to minister to these youth and are very excited to have our youth group keep growing. On Sunday, July 1st, our youth will be participating in a celebration of the fourth in Mark's Park at the church. If you have any youth that you know of that will be interested, please encourage them to come this Sunday night at 6:00 pm. Will you dare to take the adventure of exploring Christ with us?



FIFTH SUNDAY July 29, 2018

Dr. Allan Charles will be our guest speaker for our Fifth Sunday program on Sunday, July 29th. He will present a program on **Ancient Grains and Other Foods: Biblical and Present**. A pick-up breakfast will be provided by the Johnnie Sanders Circle beginning at 9:30 AM. Please circle July 29 on your calendars and be sure not to miss this informative program.



Mark Your Calendars For August 26th Christian Education Sunday!

Christian Education Day is being planned for Sunday, August 26, from 9 am until 10 am. We will have the opportunity to show our appreciation for GUMC Christian Educators as well as to recognize our rising third and sixth graders. A delicious pick-up breakfast will be provided by Brenda Childers and her Hostess Committee. Our regular Sunday School classes will begin at 10:00 am.



Salkehatchie Lancaster Camp June 16 - 23, 2018

These Grace Youth, Grant Harris, Grayson Fallaw, Clint Smallwood, and Jon Nick Gault had a rewarding experience serving others at the Lancaster Salkehatchie Camp the week of June 16 - 23, 2018. **From Grayson:**

Salkehatchie this year was a life changing experience for Grant, Clint, and I. We were able to go to 3 different houses and improve them in the short span of a week. We changed these home owners lives and showed them who God was. My home owner who had not prayed in

many years began praying for us during that week because she saw the work that God was doing for her. We are just so blessed to have had the opportunity to represent Grace United Methodist Church in Lancaster SC. Thank you for all your prayers!



Dear Grace United Methodist,
 Thank ya'll so much
 for the graduate recognition
 Bible, and graduate
 luncheon! It mean't
 the world to me,
 and Thank you all
 for the love and
 support!

Munt Horn's

*A Grateful heart
 is a Happy heart!*

That is why I say

*Thank
 You!*

Everyday!

www.quoteallday.com

SIMPLY GRATEFUL -

**RE: Home Repairs
 for Seniors
 (Salkehatchie Union Camp,
 June 16-23, 2018)**

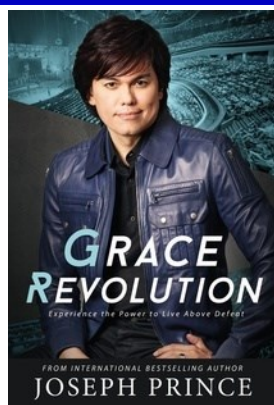
Received June 27, 2018

Hello:

I can't get a thank you card in mail fast enough
 so I'm sending this email to Rev. Brown, Rev.
 Bauknight, the committee members, youth, and adult
 volunteers,

On behalf of my friend, Ms. Virginia Starkes,
 we sincerely appreciate the much needed repairs your
 organization, the Salkehatchie Summer Service
 Program, completed last week at her home in
 Union. She is a "happy camper," and so am I. I live in
 Maryland, but Miss Virginia and I speak every day.
 She is elated and continues to share with me
 expressions of gratitude for everything that was done
 for her. She tells me how concerned she was for the
 volunteers due to the hot weather during the time they
 were there to do the repairs. She actually fell in love
 with them and enjoyed interacting with each one. She
 is very proud of the repair results and most
 appreciative for all that was done to "help me out" as
 she phrases, and how much it means to her. Each day
 she'll say to me, "I forgot to tell you they..... and they
 did.....," and with much excitement she'll give me
 the details. I, too, am appreciative and thankful that
 you all extended this blessing to Miss Virginia, a
 special friend to me.

Thank you all so very much. May the Lord
 continue to bless each of you real good!!
 Simply Grateful for your acts of kindness,
 Enjoy a blessed day,
 Margaret White
 and my friend,
 Ms. Virginia Starkes, 301 McBeth Street, Union, SC
 29379



New Study Begins In July

The Young Adult
 Class are
 beginning a new
 study in July

entitled "Grace Revolution" based on the
 book by Joseph Prince. The class
 meets in the room directly across from
 the Pastor's office We welcome all who
 are young at heart and are interested in
 topical studies.

Organ Re-Leathering

Beginning on Friday, June 22nd
 work began on reinstalling all the
 re-leathered pouch boards for the Casavant
 organ pipes. This has been a much
 anticipated renewal and, once completed,
 will allow the rich sounds of Grace's
 beautiful organ to again fill the sanctuary.
 Tommy should be able to play the organ
 beginning with July 8th's worship service.



Because We Care

Heartland Residential: Raye Hellams,
Mary Jo Rogers
Jack and Betty Rash
Summit Hills, Sptbg: Elwood and Barbara
Eason
Pacifica Senior Living, Sptbg: Amy Bruce



Chancel Choir

The Grace Chancel Choir will take some much deserved time off during the month of July and August. During July the special music

will be provided each Sunday by the following:

July 1 - Tommy Bishop
July 8 - Clyburn/Whitener Class
July 15 - Upper Room Class and Cole Heatherly
July 22 - Young Adult Class
July 29 - Katie Wagner and Brianna Bailey

Thank you to our classes and vocalists for giving the choir a summer break.



The Church Office will be **CLOSED** Wednesday July 4 - Friday, July 6, 2018



We are deeply appreciative for all the recent newsletter submissions. Please be encouraged to continue this trend! It takes all of us working together to have the best possible newsletter. **Deadline for the August Grace Messenger will be July 20th.**

July



4 Katie Wagner
5 Brenda Childers,
Ben Hudson,
Melva Ledwell
Bates Scoggins
8 Leslie Owens
12 Keith Ivey
20 Sonja Dunbar, David Mahan,
Kathie Sinclair (T)
21 Daniel Dunbar, Michelle James
23 Mike Jolly
24 Regenia Greer
25 Pete Berry, Bob Kincheloe,
Roger Worley
30 Dot Quinn, Nancy Simmons
31 Makayleigh Ham, Bob Love

O God, our times are in Your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on Your servants who have birthdays this month as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in Your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



GUMCEP News

GUMCEP has many activities going on this summer. The children have been going to the park, trips to the movies, skating, doing water fun activities, reading books, crafts, and playing games. The older children are visiting the Physics Garden and learning about plants. Everyone is staying busy at GUMCEP.

Come and visit anytime!

Salkehatchie Union Camp June 16 - 23, 2018

The Union Salkehatchie Camp came to a close on Saturday, June 23rd after a wonderful week of being the hands and feet of Jesus. This year five homes were repaired: one in Jonesville, one in Carlisle and three in Union. Eighty adult leaders and youth worked in extremely hot temperatures to improve these five homes. Grace is so thankful to host the annual Salkehatchie Summer Service in Union. We are thankful for the continued support of caring and hardworking volunteers from around the state in much-



needed ministry. A special thanks to the Upper Room Class, the Young Adult Class and the Clyburn/Whitener Class for feeding the campers Saturday supper and Sunday lunch. Thank you to Melodi Gault for being the photographer, to Fran and Bob Love for inviting the campers to the Young Adult Sunday School class, and to Karen Hibbard for coordinating all the lunches and suppers!! Much appreciation goes to all who helped in any capacity with meals, decorations, balloons, treats, set up, and clean up. A wonderful and welcoming worship service was planned by Pastor David to honor our Salkehatchie servants as well as Father's Day.



One Nation Under God *** Happy 4th of July**



HANDICAP RESTROOM:

A handicap restroom for the sanctuary has been on the Trustees' wish list for a number of years. For one reason or another, primarily financial, this project has been continually delayed.

At last this project has become a reality. Bids were received from local qualified local contractors for the restroom. Ben Ivey Construction was the low bidder at \$27,977.00.

Work commenced June 21, 2018. Hopefully, the project will be completed within the next 3 weeks.

The Trustees would like to express our sincere thanks to David Langley, Langley & Associates, Architects LLC, for the preparation of architectural drawings for the restroom.

ALTAR HANDRAILS:

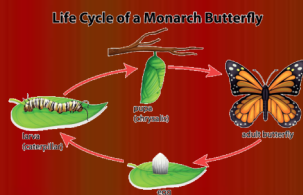
In the interest of safety for our church members and staff, the Trustees have approved the installation of handrails for the altar and entrance to choir loft.

We realize the aesthetics of our sanctuary are a major concern for our church members. While this project may be somewhat controversial due to the aesthetic issue, safety has the utmost importance.

We have made an effort to make for this installation to have a minimum detracting to the beauty of our sanctuary, while at the same time satisfying our safety issue.

One handrail will be installed on the left side of the left altar steps and one handrail will be installed on the right side of the right altar steps. Additionally, the handrail from the choir loft will be replaced with a handrail identical to the altar step handrails.

Robert Schmitt specializes in restorative type projects. He will be building and installing the handrails at an approximate cost of \$300.00 each. This work is expected to commence within the next 2 weeks.



A Butterfly



A man found a cocoon for a butterfly. One day a small opening appeared, he sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through the little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It appeared as if it had gotten as far as it could and could go no farther. Then the man decided to help the butterfly.

He took a pair of scissors and snipped the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily. Something was strange. The butterfly had a swollen body and shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected at any moment, the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened. In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and deformed wings. It was never able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand, was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the small opening of the cocoon are God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon. Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our life.

If God allowed us to go through all our life without any obstacles, that would cripple us. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. Not only that, we could never fly.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT 2018

In Mission from Anywhere to Everywhere

The 2018 Annual Conference was held June 3 – 6 at the T. D. Convention Center in Greenville. As Bishop Jonathan Holston said, “It was a gathering of people of faith.” Everyone gathered there stayed very busy from the early morning communion service until the evening worship service ended, making for long, but productive days.

Fifty years ago The Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church united becoming The United Methodist Church. This milestone was celebrated during conference. We also celebrated the ways Methodists engage in missions and global health. During conference 10,000 health kits were packed and, hopefully, we broke a Guinness World Record for the number of people to pass through a hula hoop without breaking the human chain. During the four days of conference, more than \$33,000 was collected in offerings, all going to different charities. United Methodist Volunteers in Mission and Salkehatchie Summer Service were also recognized.

Dr. B. McIver Anderson held a memorial service and remembered fifty-two clergies, spouses, and others who have died in the past year. Mrs. Ann Clary, wife of our former pastor, was among those remembered.

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Paul Harmon, was among the thirty-seven honored at the retirement ceremony for their years of service to The United Methodist Church.

Twenty-nine clergies were commissioned or ordained during the impressive message delivered by Bishop Mildred Hines, resident bishop of the South Atlantic Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Business meetings included:

1. Passed three of four resolutions and referred a fourth to the General Conference Delegation for 2019.
2. Approved five new changes to standing rules.
3. Passed a \$17 million budget for 2019.
4. The body heard reports from the many groups that are responsible for making our Methodist denomination great.

Bishop Holston, along with the DS from each district, assigned appointments for conference year 2018 – 2019. We are happy that our Pastor David came back to Grace.

Next year the Annual Conference will again be held at the T. D. Convention Center, June 2 – 6, 2019. It will be a five-day conference to elect delegates to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

Submitted by: Frances Adams

Katie Wagner Wins Boinest Morgan Medal

Katie was presented the Boinest Morgan Medal for Excellence in Piano Study by the Union Music Club President Nancy Kennedy and club Treasurer Rev. Sanders Read after her piano performance of “Dance of the Wind” at the Music Club’s May 8th meeting. This medal is awarded annually in memory of Mrs. Genie Boinest Morgan, who taught piano in Union for many years. Katie is a participant in the STAR Celebration auditions at Converse College and this year received her gold cup for six years of participation in the memorized solos category.

Last year she received her gold cup for three years of participation in the hymn playing category. Katie has also participated in the written theory test and the piano trio ensemble categories. Suzy Smith has been her piano teacher since she was in the third grade. Katie also sings with our Grace Chancel Choir and has performed on the Mason and Hamlin grand piano at the sanctuary altar cove. As a rising 11th grader at UCHS, she is a member of the National Honor Society, the Jr. Civitan Club, JROTC, and the Gifted and Talented music class. Grace is very proud of Katie and her accomplishments. **CONGRATULATIONS**, Katie!





Polar Blast VBS June 10 – 12, 2018

After much planning, decorating, and dedication from a large group of volunteers, our Grace VBS was a success. We welcomed 28 children who were eager to go on an icy adventure each night to learn about “Polar Blast, where Jesus’ love is cool,” our VBS theme. We were blessed with wonderful volunteers who willingly worked to provide food, songs, meaningful skits with Jesus filled experiments, cool Bible adventures, a project with a loving purpose, outside games, and a VBS slideshow. The children also enjoyed awesome openings and closings each day led by Pastor David as Dr. Jack Frost as well as Sherry Bauknight, Sally Summers and Katie Wagner. A tremendous thank you goes to all of our wonderful volunteers including Lisbeth Kelly, Sherry & David Bauknight, Katie Wagner, Sally Summers, Judy Caston, Sue Keith, Melissa & Stewart Wagner, Jane, Missy and Paul Wilkes, Freada & Doug Rinaca, Grayson Fallaw, JoAnne Lipscomb, Cole Heatherly, Jan Thompson, Sally Palmer, Sissy Mathews, Anita Maness, Cindy Langley, Nicole Tyler, Allie Owens, Kim Alexander, Alex Wagner, Brianna Bailey, Harriet Cohen, Pat Owens, Sheryl Price, and Glenn Hibbard. Our VBS Coordinators were Margie Ruff & Karen Hibbard. We all experienced children learning that Jesus will always love you.... **Cool!!**





THE GRACE MESSENGER

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



July Forth Word Search



Find These Words:

Adams	July
America	Liberty
Barbeque	Nation
Colonies	Parade
Congress	Revolution
Declaration	Rights
Equality	States
Fireworks	Thirteen
Fourth	United
Freedom	
Hotdogs	
Independence	
Jefferson	