



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 Phone: 803-480-2153

From the Pastor

JUNE 2021

A Father's Letter to His Son

(author unknown)

This road of life you are now on has been filled with many twists and turns. You have experienced the highest of highs and the lowest of lows throughout your marvelous journey thus far. You have ventured far beyond the shore, more times than not, successfully. You have been blessed to experience firsthand the world, its people, its values, its successes, and its failures.

You have been blessed with the fondest of memories that warm your heart and soul, memories that reflect the happiest of times through the carefree eyes of a child. Unfortunately, too are memories that you see not as grand, for as you've grown, carefree gives way to the world you now see as a man.

You have succeeded beyond measure in many things. You may have come up short in just a few. You continually made those proud who love you. Take a deep breath, pat yourself on the back, take just a moment to glow and be thankful for the little things that make you who you are.

You have discovered through personal relationships what it means to love and be loved. You have unfortunately experienced with this love both heartbreak and the sorrow of loss. You have relished in the opportunities to give with abandon and learned, ever so humbly, what is expected of you through the gracious art of receiving.

You have come to see that change, no matter how large or small, is inevitable, whether you like it or not. How you choose to accept it will forever define you and your happiness throughout your life. Living in the past may be the ideal, but living in the moment is reality and that, my son, is life.

No matter what you may wish would not have happened, when people and emotions are involved, unless you have walked long days in their shoes, their lives are not yours to judge. We all seek to be happy, and we flee from rejection and pain. As you age, wisdom will follow, and you'll come to understand that true lasting happiness begins and ends within.

You have been taught from where your strength comes, where forgiveness begins and where joy abounds. You have been given through God's grace the wisdom to know you are precious in the eyes of the One who made you and can take comfort in the knowledge that He always has your back. If you will always call on Him for the little things, you will find in life through Him, there are no big things.

You live in a world that is constantly in motion. Stopping the world to get off when things don't go your way is not a luxury you will ever be privy too. The ebbs and flows of life remain in constant flux. Move with them, embrace them and you will always find your steps firm and your path made exceedingly clear.

With you, each new day creates an opportunity to reflect not on "the what if's" of yesterday, but to embrace and cherish the moment of today; to relish in the hope that tomorrow a brighter day may bring. Second chances too will come your way, but it's best to seize this time, this place, this second and do what's right today.

In you is the future. In you there is hope. You are our child. Whether we live together or apart, our hearts and our prayers go with you each and every day. We long to grow old with you in our lives, filling us with joy as we watch your dreams come true.

My wish for you today is to remember where you came from and the values you were taught. In you we have given our all, despite what you may think, that you may have all the tools necessary to succeed in this life and the knowledge and wisdom to discard the rest.

Finally, I pray you will look beyond our shortcomings and forgive where forgiveness is due. We're not perfect, as you well know, nor will we ever be. I ask for you to cherish the good in me that makes me who I am and look beyond that which disappoints you that you may find in me, not just a parent, but a friend.

May this be our letter, either one we share with or receive from those we love. As we celebrate Father's Day this month let's also celebrate God's great love for each of us. Pastor David

This week I gladly give

TITHING

i my church

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Date _____

Amount \$ _____

☐ Tithing
☐ Offering
☐ Other

☐ cash ☐ check

Stewardship Report

as of **May 23, 2021**

Offering Report as of:	Sunday, May 23, 2021
2021 Budget:	379,036.00
Needed for 2021 Budget YTD:	\$ 153,072.23
Offering Rec'd Last Week:	\$ 3,780.00
Budget Rec'd YTD:	\$ 115,353.05
Surplus/Deficit YTD:	\$ -37,719.18
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)

As each of you can see in our stewardship report, we have a deficit of \$37,719.18.

It has been a tough year for all of us, but God has blessed us all tremendously. In 2 Corinthians 9:68 God reminds us, **"Whoever sows sparingly, will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of us should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."** Are you doing your part?



UMW Circle Meetings

Johnnie Sanders Circle

Circle of Hope

Lucy Lee Shuler Circle

Our circles will be able to begin meeting again this Fall. Each circle chairman should make preparations for your circles first return. What a joy it will be to be together again!!



DATE: Sunday, June 13, 2021

TIME: Directly after church service. You need not attend the service to order a meal, but everyone would love to see you there.

REQUESTED SIGN-UP: Sign up sheets will be at the front and side doors of the sanctuary on Sundays or at the church office on Monday, Tuesday or Thursdays. You may also call at **864-427-1266**. We will need to know by June 7th in order to 'allow the UMW to know how many to prepare for.

COST: \$10.00 Adults \$5.00 Children Pay at the check-in table.

This fundraiser is for UMW International Missions that Grace supports every year.

The United Methodist Women thank you in advance for your support. Your generosity is most welcome!

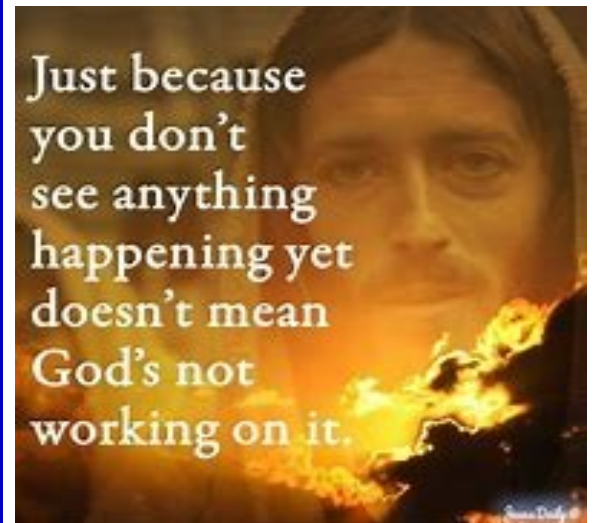
Rev. Lee Phillips, Jr.

jlphillipjr@umcsc.org

Rev. Lee Phillips will be our new pastor as of June 30, 2021. Rev. Phillips comes to us from Trinity UMC in Aiken, South Carolina. His wife's name is Vickie. He has four grown children. His first worship service will be on July 4th. What a wonderful blessing he will be to Grace. We have heard many fine compliments about him. Please plan to welcome his arrival to our pulpit.



Just because
you don't
see anything
happening yet
doesn't mean
God's not
working on it.





Attention Adult Sunday Schools... We're Back!!

The Young Adults Sunday School Class led by Bob Love began meeting via ZOOM in May, 2020, due to the pandemic. Some members of the two other classes also participated. With the CDC and Bishop's okay, we can again meet in-house. The three classes will come together through the summer and meet in the sanctuary at 10:00 am beginning Sunday, June 6th. Come this Fall we may go back to our regular classes. Bob's class has extended an invitation to anyone who wishes to continue with his class. As Fran Love pointed out one Sunday, "Some of us in the class are not so young anymore". So, come back to Sunday School. We've all missed the gatherings and fellowship this past year. Plus, you'll be involved in great lessons with some great class teachers. Hope to see you at 10:00 am Sunday mornings!



UMW Executive Meeting Sunday, June 6, 2021

All UMW officers and circle chairpersons are reminded that there will be an executive meeting on Sunday, June 6th, at 3:00 pm to finalize plans for the June 13th Spaghetti Take-out Fund-raiser.



Honoring all Fathers this Father's Day, June 20, 2021



Young at Heart Luncheons

The Young At Hearts Luncheons will not take place during the summer. This Fall we will be able to again join in fun, food, and fellowship at Andy's.



No Family Night Suppers

There will be **NO** Summer Family Night Suppers. 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. Come this Fall, we will be able to join in a meal and enjoy the fellowship as we have had in the past.



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

Chancel Choir and Bells of Grace

Chancel Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Wednesday, June 2nd – 7:30pm

Wednesday, June 9th – 7:30pm

Wednesday, June 16th – 7:30pm



***Bells of Grace will resume practice in September.**



June

1 Kathryn Moore

2 William Jeter,
Anna Heatherly

6 Quinton Wilkes

7 Buddy Blackmon,
Cille Cody

8 Packie Whitener

9 Scott Hibbard

17 Michael Langley

19 Coleman Jeter

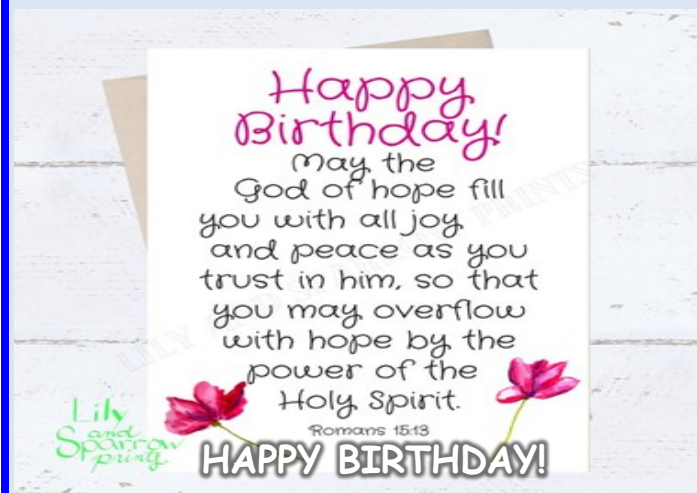
20 Gordon Roberson

25 Kelli Johnston

27 Larry Goff, Ember Love

28 Bailey, Patrick & Will Long, Jack Rash

30 Christy Kincheloe



FRAN LOVE'S CALLING

Fran says a voice has been calling and she wasn't listening for a long time. Now she is paying attention and taking courses in order for her filling unfilled clerical openings at New Hope and Jonesville UMCs in Jonesville. She begins on Sunday, June 6th. Please know, Fran and Bob, we will miss you dearly, but this is a major step for you, Fran, and we are behind you 100%.



FREE! FREE! FREE!

Once again we encourage anyone who is interested to please come to the GUMCEP Day Care rooms on the bottom floor of the Educational Building to "shop for free"! We have plenty of children's books, DVDs, CDs, as well as VHS tapes. We also have teacher materials, toys, easels, and several pieces of used children's furniture. Please plan to shop during our church office hours or after worship services on Sundays or contact Karen Hibbard at 864-426-1655 to meet you at church at your convenience. Plans are to donate all remaining materials after June 30, 2021.



Children's Sunday School Begins on June 6, 2021

Miss Margie and Mrs. Karen are happy to announce that our children's Sunday School Class will resume on Sunday, June 6, at 10:00 am. We are excited to have our regular Sunday School time return after a long Covid year! Please join us for Bible stories, crafts, and snacks! We will be looking for those smiling faces!!

Sunday School is Cool



Children's Church Resumes on Sunday, June 6, 2021

Children's Church is offered each Sunday immediately following Children's Moments so our children may engage in age appropriate learning activities for the remainder of the church service. The children enjoy a snack, a Bible story, and activities to reinforce the main point. Children's Church is age appropriate for ages 3 years old through second grade. Grace appreciates our volunteers who are so willing to help teach Children's Church each Sunday. We are so grateful to be getting "back to normal"! Children's Church will begin on Sunday, June 6, 2021.



Flag Day 2021
Monday,
June 14

Flag Day

June 14, 1777





Grace's Village News



ISSUE N° 73

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH, 2013

PRICE 3 CENTS



Ralph Lawson accepts a \$500 donation on behalf of the Union County High School Department of Performing Arts from Leroy Kennedy, president of the Union Rotary Club. This was done at the club's meeting at the Union Campus of Spartanburg Community College on April. 20. (Robbie Littlejohn photo)



Tyler Shugart, representing Union County Dixie Girls Softball, accepts a check for \$400 from Union Rotary Club President Leroy Kennedy at the club's April 20 meeting. (Robbie Littlejohn photo)

Leroy Kennedy, president of Union's Rotary Club presents a donation to UCHS's Performing Arts Program, to the Union County Dixie Girls Softball Organization, and to The Boy Scouts USA..



Ethan Balkum is shown with his father, Bill, and grandfather, Frank Alexander, at Foster Park during the workday for Ethan's Eagle Scout Project. (Anna Brown photo)

part of Eagle Scout project



Andrew Anders and Ethan Balkum prepare to set one of the benches. (Anna Brown photo)



ROTARY DONATION - Boy Scouts USA representative Cory Humphries accepts a Rotary donation from Rotary Club of Union President Leroy Kennedy. Also pictured is Taylor Thomas of Boy Scouts USA. (Robbie Littlejohn photo)



Members of Boy Scout Troop 42 are shown during the work day for Ethan Balkum's Eagle Scout Project. (Photo courtesy of Balkum family)



Dr. David Keith was presented the 2021 Shining Star award from Chamber member Steve Lewis.

Smiles mean everything!

And that goes without saying as Dr. David Keith received the 2021 Shining Star Award from Steve Lewis with the Union Chamber of Commerce.

Ethan Balkum, a member of Grace UMC's Scout Troop #42, completed his work at Foster Park's wooded trails for his Eagle Scout Project. CONGRATULATIONS, Ethan, on your achievements as a scout.



Next

EXTRA GO! GO! GO!

FLASH
EDITION

EVENING TRIBUNE

Evening Tribune—Established 1895

San Diego Sun—Established 1891

San Diego Daily Journal—Established 1966

Volume 6,712

46 PAGES

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1962

CHUCKLE

When you read in the Tribune
the jokes, the stories, the
what-happened-just-between-the-eyes

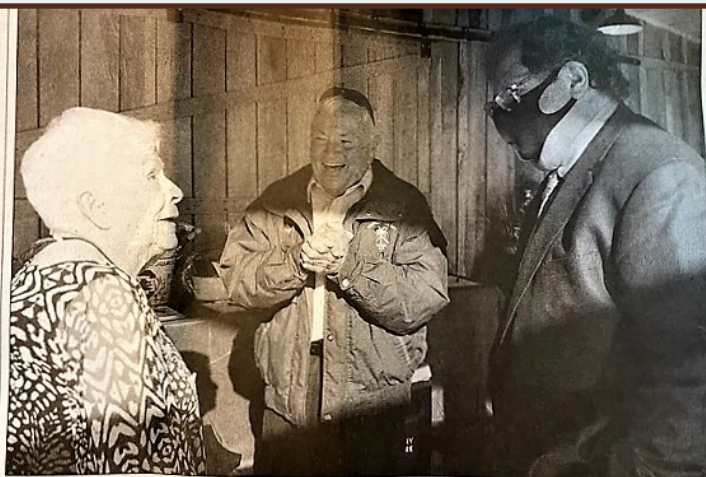
WEATHER

Forecast — Clear
High 65, Low 45

18 CENTS PER COPY

GOOD TIMES TODAY!

HEADLINE NEWS: Ms. Barbara shares a joke with Roger Bailey and William Holcombe.



Roger Bailey (center) reacts to a joke Barbara Rippey shared with him and William Holcombe before the Chamber of Commerce banquet last Thursday at Sunset Farm. (Graham Williams photo)

EXTRA EXTRA LATEST HEADLINE READ ALL ABOUT IT

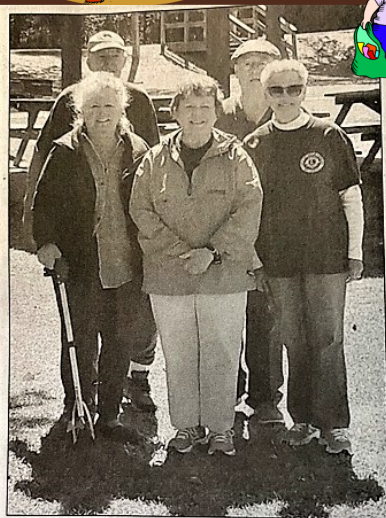
NEWS FLASH: Girl Scout Troop #1661 of Lockhart announces their Gold and Silver Award recipients. Troop #1661 also spent a work day out at Woods Ferry with some of their parents.



This picture was made during the work day at Woods Ferry: (front row) Margaret Smith, Jessica Smith, Sarah Paige Glenn, Calee Childers, Ashley Colson, Ari Taylor, Catherine Childers. (back row) John Glenn, April Glenn, Jason Colson, Jacob Colson, Jane Taylor, Heather Colson.



EARTH DAY
April 22, 2021



EARTH DAY CLEANUP - To celebrate Earth Day, members of the Union Lions Club picked up litter at Foster Park last Thursday. Pictured are (front row) Mimi Charles, Judy Caston and Barbara Holley. (back row) Bob Holley and George Goings.

Members of Union's Lions Club helped pick up trash at Foster Park recently for Earth Day. Thank you Mimi Keith, Judy Caston, Barbara Holley, Bob Holley, and George Goings for your beautification efforts in our community. Nice Work, guys!!



MEALS ON WHEELS DRIVERS



This week's Union County Meals on Wheels driver is Doug Rimsca. Doug is retired after working as a chemist and also as a science teacher at Union High School. Doug shares a route with his wife, Linda. The Rimsca's deliver 11 meals each Wednesday to the residents of Pindney Place.

"I enjoy it," Doug said. "I like it when we have a chance to interact with the people we serve."

Doug said he feels it is his duty to serve others and he is glad he has time to volunteer since his retirement. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver, you can contact Nancy Baucke at 427-0046 for an application. If you would like to make a donation, you may send a check made payable to Meals on Wheels, to Jim Stepp, 109 West South Street, Union, 29379.



THERE GOES DOUG!! He's taking Meals on Wheels dinners to those who cannot do for themselves. Job well done, Doug!!



Jessica Smith (back) received her Girl Scout Gold Award on May 2. Three other girls from Troop 1661 of Lockhart - Sarah Paige Glenn, Calee Childers and Abby Garner - received their Silver Awards. (Photo courtesy of Heather Colson)

CONGRATULATIONS, Sarah Paige Glenn, on receiving the Girl Scout Silver Award!!



GRACE GETS TO START OPENING DOORS TO REGULAR SCHEDULE

Updated COVID-19 Guidance at Grace UMC

Based on current CDC guidelines, Grace will not have any restrictions on participation in church activities for those who have been fully vaccinated. However, we do encourage all eligible persons to be vaccinated as soon as possible.

As the leaders of Grace, we will make the best decisions for our congregation and community, taking into account the latest CDC guidance and our circumstances. Because of age or health conditions, not everyone is able to be vaccinated. At Grace, we will do all we can to enable safe participation for those still at risk.

We remind all our members that individual circumstances differ, and we will respect the decisions made by others as they assume personal responsibility for health and safety during the pandemic.

We recognize that there are differences of opinion about the best way to respond to COVID-19. We urge patience and understanding as we seek the best ways to serve God and one another. We offer the following considerations about ministry areas that have generated numerous questions:

Choirs

Un-vaccinated persons may participate in choirs. However, if un-vaccinated persons participate in choirs, then we will do everything possible to limit the spread of aerosols and to distance the choir from the congregation (for those un-vaccinated masks are recommended).

Communion

We are thankful for the gift to participate in Communion. Until we have 100% of our congregation vaccinated, we will continue the safety practices already in place, including the use of pre-packaged communion elements.

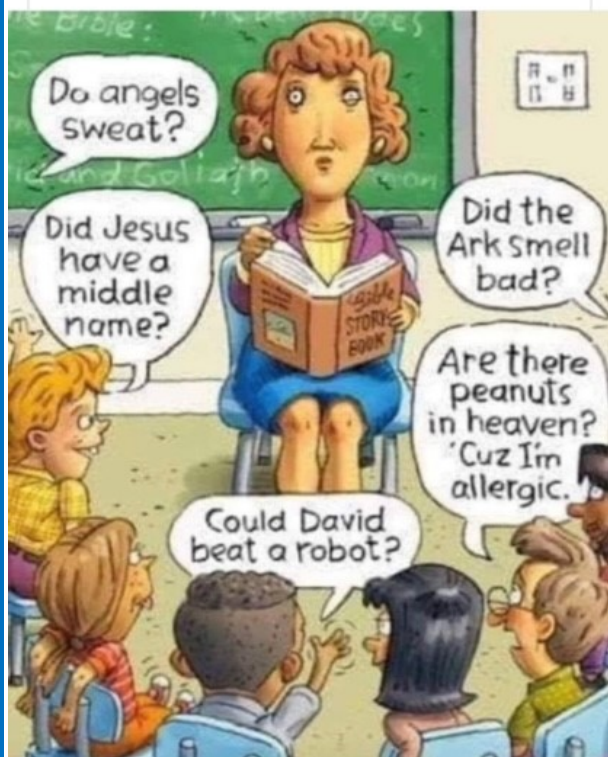
Children

Currently, there are no vaccines available for children under the age of 12. We will follow the CDC guidelines that apply to this age group.

Special Health Conditions

We encourage the elderly and those with weak immune systems due to health conditions such as diabetes, cancer, and immune-suppressing medications to continue to wear masks as they may not be fully protected from COVID-19 even after they are fully vaccinated.

Shout out to the Sunday school teachers....thank you



UMCOR provides MORE than just a quick response to disasters.

UMCOR meets the needs of survivors during every phase of a disaster...

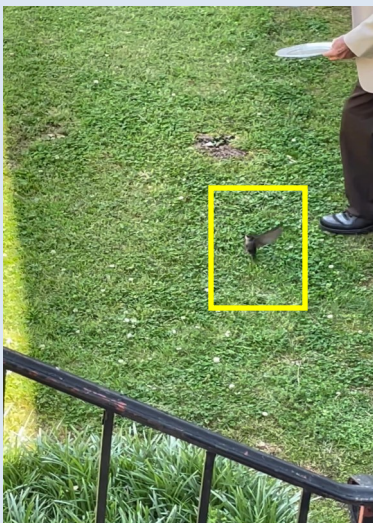
...from the short-term, early-in response to the long-term, holistic assistance that survivors need to rebuild their lives.



GLOBAL MINISTRIES/UMCOR
458 Ponce De Leon Ave., NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

NEED HELP? donationhelp@umcmmission.org
HAVE QUESTIONS? 800-862-4246

To Give by Check: please send checks payable to Advance GCFA:
Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P. O. Box 9068, NY, NY 10087-9068



Glenn Hibbard, Bird Rescuer!!

On Sunday, May 23rd, just before the church worship service began, a new kind of visitor showed up. He/she had zipped right through the front sanctuary doors, flew around the sanctuary, then out into the hallway and upstairs. No one was able to do anything until after the service. Fortunately, this tired out and stressed little bird found its way back to the stairs soon after the service and just in time for the watchful and concerned eyes of Glenn. Glenn came to the rescue, with just a little prodding from Karen, Tommy Bishop, and myself, "*Careful, Glenn! Hold it gently! Watch its wings!*". He grabbed some paper towels and was able to gently scoop him/her right up into his hands. **Hallelujah!** Glenn and the curious onlookers then went outside and wondered how to release this flying visitor. "*Throw it up and it'll fly away.*" "*No, it's too stressed out and tired!*" "*Well, what then?*" Glenn chose to go out into the breezeway yard and place it on the ground. Nothing happened. We watched some more. Nothing. Mindful that this little creature was probably tuckered out, someone mentioned "*Get it some water. It's probably thirsty.*" There goes Glenn. He came back with a cup of water and a saucer. As you can see, once Glenn got down to the bird, it flew away. Thankfully, we all let out a suppressed "*Whew!*" That little bird had had enough spiritual uplifting for one day. Maybe...who knows...he/she will need more uplifting help. That little bird will always be welcome. How about you? You'll always be welcome, too! This is God's house. All are welcome.

Our big **THANKS** to Glenn for his efforts in helping one of God's little creatures. I wish videos worked on paper, but they don't. It was a hoot!

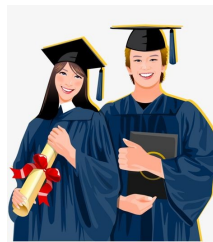
Love y'all dearly and hope to see you soon! 🏡 🐭 ✝️ 😊 ❤️



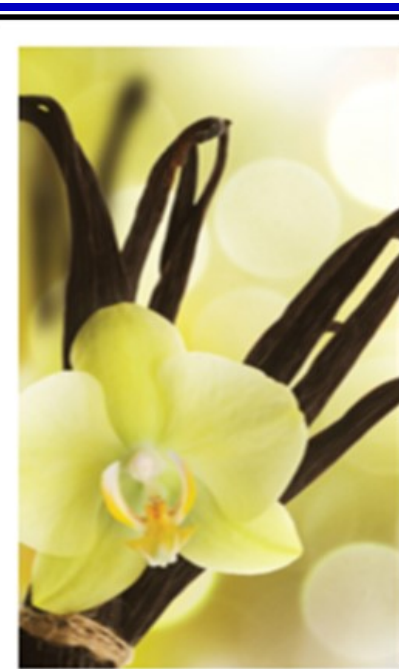
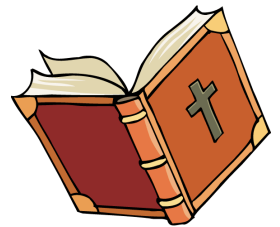
Graduates Ethan Balkum (UCHS), Charlie Long (USC-Upstate), Abbie Valentine (Newberry College), and Jack James (Clemson) were honored on Graduate Sunday, May 16. Congratulations!



Due to the pandemic, we were unable to recognize our rising Third and Sixth Graders in 2020. On Sunday, May 16, during Christian Education Sunday, we honored Ben Balkum (6th), Bayla Morrow (6th), Quinton Wilkes (3rd), and Gage Love (3rd). Grace is proud of you! Keep up the good work and read your wonderful new bibles!



Graduate and
Christian
Education
Sunday
May 16, 2021

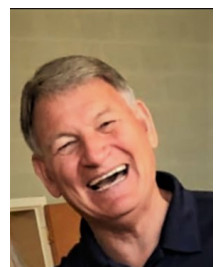


Drop-In and Open-House

Due to the inability to complete the new parsonage before June 27th, we have had to cancel the New Parsonage and Retirement Drop-in. This was a sudden decision made necessary by delays in the cabinets and placing of the floors in the renovated sections of the Great Room, Dining Room, and Kitchen. We are so sorry about this. Hopefully we can have an Open-House Drop-In at a later time after Pastor Lee and Vickie are settled in.



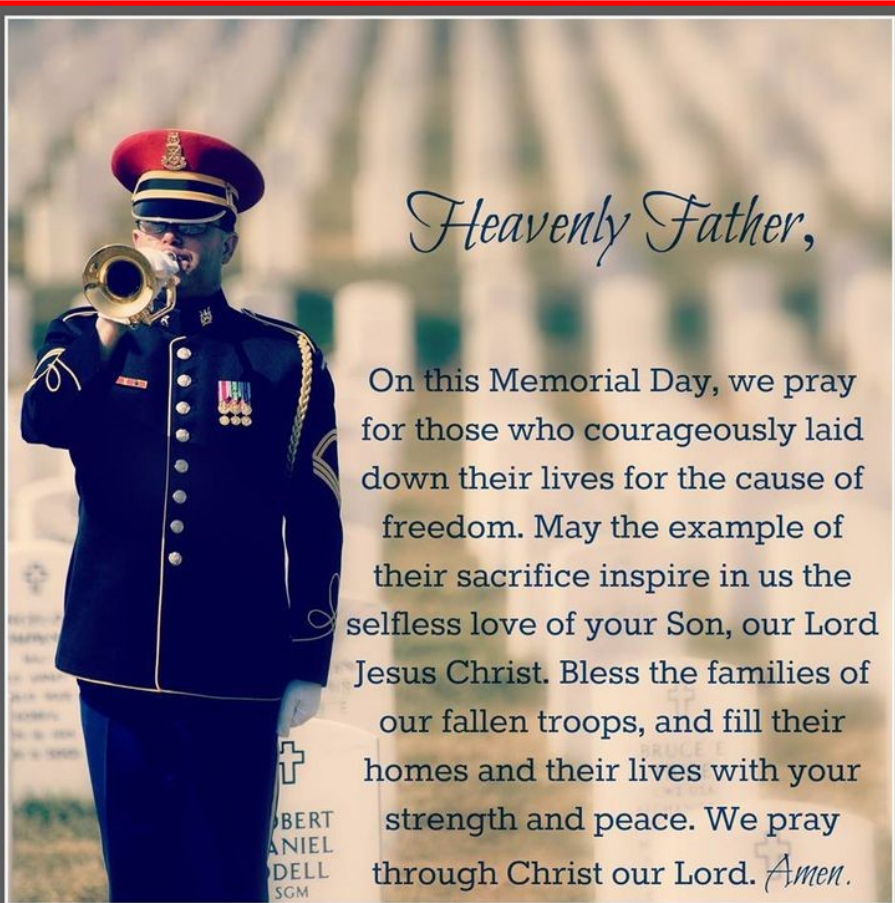
Oh how we're gonna miss ya! You both have brightened up this church and made it feel more like a home. We cannot thank you enough for a wonderful nine years together. God bless you both as you step into the next phase of your





THE GRACE MESSENGER

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



Heavenly Father,

On this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the example of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and their lives with your strength and peace. We pray through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

GRACE NEWS

As always, thank you for the **opportunity** to bring you Grace happenings via **THE MESSENGER**. I am always looking for what is going on at Grace and within the community. If you have something noteworthy, please submit it to me by the **16th of June**.

