



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

November 2020

What Is the Purpose of Thanksgiving Day?

Abraham Lincoln designated the last Thursday of November as a day to give thanks to God, to humble ourselves and pray earnestly for our nation. Since then the meaning has been forgotten, lost, or even stifled. We think it is for us to eat turkey, watch football games, and enjoy a day off. The Word of God tells us in **Psalm 100:4-5** ⁴*“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. ⁵For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”* **Psalm 33:12** *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord: and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.”*

By the President of the United States of America - A Proclamation. It has pleased Almighty God to prolong our national life another year, defending us with His guardian care against unfriendly designs from abroad and vouchsafing to us in His mercy many and signal victories over the enemy, who is of our own household. It has also pleased our Heavenly Father to favor, as well our citizens in their homes as our soldiers in their camps and our sailors on the rivers and seas with unusual health. He has largely augmented our free population by emancipation and by immigration, while He has opened to us new sources of wealth and has crowned the labor of our workingmen in every department of industry with abundant rewards. Moreover, He has been pleased to animate and inspire our minds and hearts with fortitude, courage, and resolution sufficient for the great trial of civil war into which we have been brought by our adherence as a nation to the cause of freedom and humanity, and to afford to us reasonable hopes of an ultimate and happy deliverance from all our dangers and afflictions: Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, do hereby appoint and set apart the last Thursday in November next as a day which I desire to be observed by all my fellow-citizens, wherever they may then be, as a day of thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God, the beneficent Creator and Ruler of the Universe. *And I do further recommend to my fellow-citizens aforesaid that on that occasion they do reverently humble themselves in the dust and from thence offer up penitent and fervent prayers and supplications to the Great Disposer of Events for a return of the inestimable blessings of peace, union, and harmony throughout the land which it has pleased Him to assign as a dwelling place for ourselves and for our posterity throughout all generations.* In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington, this 20th day of October, A.D. 1864, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-ninth year. ABRAHAM LINCOLN. By the President: WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

Lincoln would later write in His call to prayer and fasting, *“But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!”*

When you sit down around the table to eat turkey and all the fixings that go with it, remember the real reason for thanksgiving is to give thanks, and to call on God in humility, penitence, and fervency for our nation. Give thanks, with a grateful heart. Pastor David

Our Dear Church Family,



To say **“Thank You”** pales in comparison to what you, our Grace family, did on October 25th during the morning worship service. Sherry and I are deeply awed by the extensive outpouring of love and care you gave on Pastor Appreciation Day. You might not believe it, but reading your remarkable notes caused *“faint mists to form in my ocular observatories.”* Your special thoughts, words, and deeds mean so much and are truly appreciated.

With love, Sherry & David



STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2020

Offering Report as of:	October 25, 2020
2020 Budget:	\$ 379,325.00
Needed for 2020 Budget YTD:	\$ 313,672.60
Budget Rec'd YTD:	\$ 261,561.16
Surplus/Deficit YTD:	\$ -52,111.44
Offering Rec'd Last Week:	\$ 2,065.00
Weekly Offering Needed:	\$ 7,294.71

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!!



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



UMW NEWS

No In-Person Meetings until It's Deemed Safe

It is possible to have meetings via ZOOM if your circle so wishes. Please ask Dale Goff for details and setting up at goffd@bellsouth.net or **864-426-2037**.

Please honor your 2020 pledge and send it in before the end of November. Call your circle treasurer for your current pledge owed:

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: (Add circle you belong to)

Fran Love
109 Carter Street
Union, SC 29379.

*If you feel the spirit telling you to send in more than your original pledge amount, it would be greatly appreciated!

Thank You, Judy Caston
UMW President



No Family Night Suppers



Oh, Family Night Suppers! We miss them! We miss the fellowship, the fun and entertaining conversation, the desserts! Unfortunately, we are still unable to do so due to the current virus situation. So, instead have a family meal together and say a blessing, remembering to include those we miss seeing, every Wednesday evening..



Neighbor Helping Neighbor

NHN continues to help build ramps and porches for those in need. They work one Saturday a month and meet in Grace's parking lot at 8:00 am. There is always plenty of work to be done. Plan to come out and help. They would be glad to see you. David Turner, treasurer, thanks everyone for their continuing support of this ministry. Call David at **864-427-5571** or e-mail at icarve@bellsouth.net if you are interested in helping.

Dear Members of Grace,

Peggy Langley wishes to express deep thanks for all the prayers, cards, and phone calls she received while she was in the hospital recovering. She asks that you continue to keep her in your prayers. She is at home now and thankful for such a loving church family.

Sheryl

Thank you!





Because We Care

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



Choir Rehearsal

We will continue to have no rehearsals until it has been decided it is safe to resume.

Chancel Choir and Bells of Grace



Handbells Rehearsal

Secret Santa

Is In It's 31st year

Brooke and Brad Valentine are in their 20th year as chairmen for Grace's Secret Santa Program and are already underway preparing for this year. Applications were picked up at the church this year due to the DSS building being closed to visitors. An electronic form was also available. A locked mailbox for dropping off these applications was installed by the office door to the Educational Building. Applications were accepted until October 24. Sponsor letters are being addressed and sent at the end of October. Parent letters and instructions will be addressed and mailed at the end of November. Sponsors will be able to drop-off their packages during new office hours. On December 15 parents will drive-through to pick up their child's package, but remain in their car. Packages will be delivered to the parents' cars. In addition to sponsoring a child, donations are also needed and accepted with deep gratitude. There is always a way for you to help, also. Just ask Brad or Brooke. This year may be different, but I know that it's possible, because... **"GRACE IS AMAZING"**



November

- 1 David Keith,
Stan James
- 3 Jerry Lipscomb
- 5 Charlie Long,
James Roof
- 6 Dale Goff, Jim
Maness
- 8 Jessi Johnston,
Lane Wagner
- 9 John Glenn
- 10 Bill Weber
- 13 Gage Love
- 14 Noel Johnston
- 19 James Long
- 21 Jake Glenn , Mike Jolly
- 23 Wayne Wallace
- 28 Allan Charles, Ren Turner



*GOD has blessed you
And made your life a blessing.
GOD has chosen you
And called you HIS own...
GOD has created you
And rejoices in all that you are!
Praying you enjoy your special day
To the fullest -
And find HIS goodness in every part of it.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!*

Grace's MESSENGER

If you have been enjoying the newsletter it is because I am always looking for newsletter articles, pictures, and suggestions. Please consider sending in noteworthy information to me at: mail@graceunion.org. It takes all of us working together to have the best possible newsletter. **Deadline for the December Grace Messenger will be November 18th. REMEMBER:** Send in your admissions by the middle of the month!





It's hard to know when YAHs can rekindle the luncheons at Andy's. We miss getting together for the fun, friendships, and food. Until we know that it is safe, we will continue to hold off meeting for awhile. Don't be discouraged. We will be back!



New Office Hours

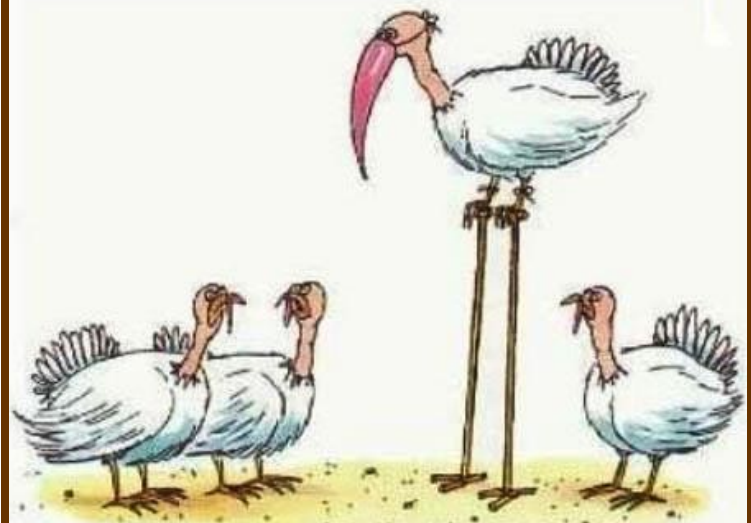
"We Are Back"

Office Days/Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 10:00 am-2:00pm

We are back to work on an altered schedule. We are not OPEN, but if you need to come by, we respectfully ask that you ring the doorbell and wait for assistance. There are also the precaution requirements we ask you to heed.



The Young Adult Class, led by Bob Love, wishes to invite you to their weekly Sunday morning Sunday School class available on ZOOM. Since the Upper Room and Clyburn-Whitener classes are not able to meet during the COVID-19 pandemic, here is your opportunity to get back to studying God's word. The class meets at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings. You join by signing into the Zoom link provided to you by email each week. Those that already participate can tell you it is a real treat to see everyone, speak to them, and to join in on the class's lesson. So, why not participate? Call Bob Love at **865-806-9379** or email him at **blove@americanbookco.com** to get on the class email list. You will really enjoy it!



"He's got a point. Nobody eats a flamingo on Thanksgiving."

November
Is



Loyalty
Month

Committed to Christ

**Giving our best to Jesus through our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, our service, and our witness!**

November is Loyalty Month. It reminds us of our promise to give our best to Jesus. What is God asking of us? We are to consider our promise to support Grace with our tithe and gifts to continue our mission in 2021. Please be in prayer about your contribution.

Two passages come to mind:

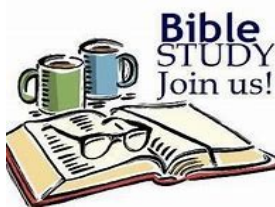
Deuteronomy 15:10 “

“Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.”

2 Corinthians 9:7

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

My friends, we’ve been blessed beyond measure. Let’s share those blessings with Grace each day.”



ZOOM Bible Study

This is exciting NEWS!

Ask, and ye shall receive! Jan Thompson has graciously volunteered to lead an 8 week Bible Study course beginning in the second week of January 2021. The Bible study guide is **Follow** by Andy Stanley, son of Dr. Charles Stanley. Dale Goff will provide the ZOOM link. If interested in participating, please let us know, along with your email address and cell phone number, before December 14th. If you are not able to get a ZOOM meeting, consider sharing with a friend that does. See you then!



*“Greater love hath no man than this,
That a man lay down his life for his
friends.”*

JOHN 15:13 KJV

“As we express our gratitude, We must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

John F. Kennedy

“One Flag, One Land, One Heart, One Hand, One Nation EVERMORE!” Oliver Wendell Holmes

“Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you, Jesus Christ and the American Soldier. One died for your soul, the other died for your freedom.” Unknown

“The United States flag does not fly because the wind moves past it...The United States flag flies from the last breath of each military member who has died protecting it.”

Unknown



Monday, October 12, 2020

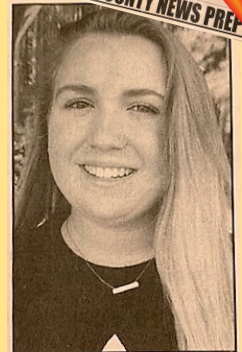
Hunter Foster Casey, granddaughter of Gene and Brenda Childers, and her husband Ethan received their white coats in Presbyterian College's inaugural group of Physician Assistants.

Congratulations!

September 28 MEALS ON WHEELS DONATION



Union Elks Lodge #1321 gave Jim and Kathy Stepp with the Union County Meals on Wheels Program \$3,500 from the Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant project. Jim, Union Elks' treasurer, and Mary Jane Cunningham are shown, along with Terry Wade and Doug Lawing.



Julia Bailey Senior Union County Girls' tennis



The nine seniors on the Union County High tennis team include Karrah Rice, Kaniyah Norman, Anna Gregory, Bailey Scott, Erin Miller, Halen Lawing, Madeline Glistrap, Alexa Robbins and Julia Bailey. (Sara Beth Gregory photo)



2020 High School Football Preview



Union County High School's football team comes onto the field in their opening game against Woodruff. #13 is Ethan Balkum.



UCHS Varsity Cheerleaders
2nd Row (far right) Maggie Berry



The Union County High School girls' tennis team finished its season 8-4. (front row) Lily Canada, Emma Cate Childers, Erin Miller, Jolee Cathcart and Mia Sherbert. (back row) Alexa Robbins, Julia Bailey, Bailey Scott, Anna Gregory, Kaniyah Norman, Karrah Rice, Coach Kelly Jenkins, Katie Cooke, Halen Lawing, Madeline Glistrap, Mary Kathryn James. (Sara Beth Gregory photo)



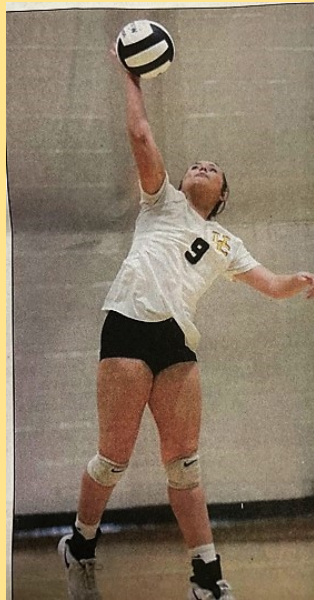
Freddie Gault, (second from right) representing U.S. Rep. Ralph Norman, presented Union County High School athletic trainer Shanna Ramsey with a special recognition on Friday, Oct. 9 at UCHS. Also pictured are Union County Schools Superintendent Joey Haney and Union County High Principal Kevin Farmer. On Oct. 1, at the JV home game against Woodruff, 15-year-old Wolverine Bryan Waddell collapsed immediately after a play. Ramsey and Woodruff Athletic Trainer Jason Currin performed CPR on Waddell and helped save his life.



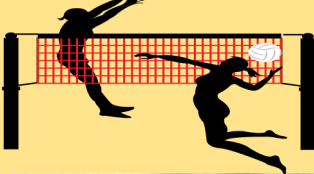
Lights, Camera, AUCTION!



SILENT AUCTION — Jo Anne Haney, Barbara Rippy, Tina Cordell and Bennie Giles hold some of the items being bid on during the Union County Arts Council's silent auction fundraiser. The event continues through Oct. 30 at the UCAC gallery on Main Street.

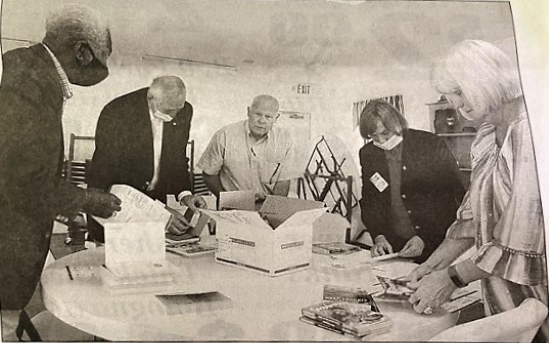


Allie Owens serves the ball to Chapman in Thursday's UCHS Varsity Volleyball game.



Leroy Kennedy, president of the Union Rotary Club, accepts a banner from Rotary District Gov. Beth Padgett. (Anna Brown photo)

Rotarians honored for giving



Rotarians Lewis Jeter, Leroy Kennedy, Mike Cassels and Lynne Burnett work with Rotary District Gov. Beth Padgett (second from right) to put labels inside books that will be donated to Buffalo Elementary School. (Anna Brown photo)

Union County's Rotary Club provided books to students at Buffalo Elementary School. They purchased three books for each of the 589 students with a \$2500 District Grant which the club matched. Leroy Kennedy, president, and Mike Cassels are shown putting labels in each book.



GIRL SCOUTS DONATE CHEMO CARE BAGS



Girls Scout Troop 1661 made Chemo Care Bags. Members include (front row) Lillie Parks, Sydney Shropshire, Emma Grace Farr, Ari Taylor, Chloe Shetley. (second row) Brooklyn Stevens, Kaliya Kelley, Calee Childers, Cheyenne Flanagan, Savannah Williams. (third row) Troop Leader Heather Colson, Rachel Moss, Abby Garner, Jessica Smith, Ashley Colson, Sarah Paige Glenn and Alyssa Vinson.



Taken in Old Fire Station on the back of 1950 American LaFrance Fire Engine on April 7, 1970: Union Volunteer Fire Dept. Front - R.P. Gossett, Earl Valentine, Tommy Henderson, Bucky Ward, Ralph Greer. Second row - Chief Jake Sullivan, Jerry Gresham, Gary Owens, James Quinn, John Henry McAbee. Third row - Mickey Cranford, Roger Gregory, Faye Hines, Harry Vaughan, Charlie Vaughan. Top row - Frank Cathcart, Don Hanvey, Hugh Tucker, James "Pap" Valentine, Gene Kimbrell.

*Ralph Greer (front row, far right)

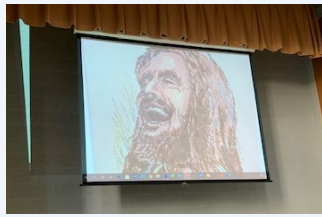
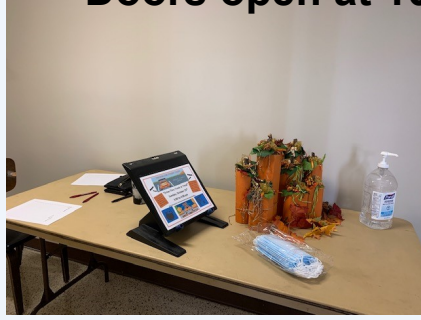


Girls Scouts shown shopping for some of the items include Addison Davis, Brooklyn Stevens, Sarah Paige Glenn, Calee Childers, Jessica Smith.



YES, WE ARE BACK!!!

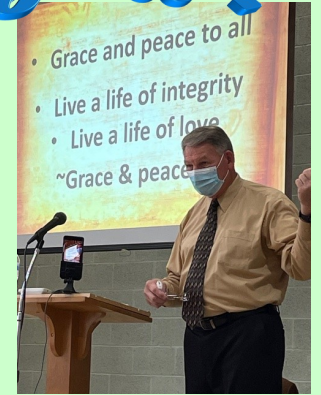
Sundays, 11:00 am Worship
Doors open at 10:30 am



grateful
AND blessed

In Celebration of Pastor David During Pastor Appreciation Month

Thank
you!



October was Pastor Appreciation Month and this year, on Sunday, October 25, 2020, Fran Love presented Pastor David with an envelope loaded with cards, sentiments, and donations from Grace's wonderful congregation. It was evident that Pastor David was deeply appreciative and humbled by our recognition of him, Our Pastor.

"Our Pastor has lead us by opening up God's word to us.

Our Pastor lives the life reflecting all he's taught us.

Our Pastor cares for others with deep sincerity and lifts them up in prayer.

Our Pastor is always there when we face misfortune or loss.

Our Pastor has a heart of Gold and a Love for everyone.

To Our Pastor

We truly love you for everything big or small that you do for us.

We thank God with grateful hearts for His having given you to us.

PASTOR DAVID, OUR PASTOR, YOU ARE THE BEST!"



White Christmas 2020

Each year Grace UMC takes the amazing opportunity to prepare food boxes to help families in need with a wonderful Christmas meal they would not otherwise be able to enjoy.

If you would like to submit names of needy families as recipients for White Christmas food boxes, please contact the church office by **November 15th**. In addition, boxes will be placed at the entrance to the double doors by the kitchen for collection of non-perishable food items from our members as you enter to attend our in-person worship services. You may also contribute by making a check payable to Grace United Methodist Church with "White Christmas Food Box Fund" placed in the "For" line. You may also bring your donations to the church office. We will have boxes placed inside the office door. A little closer to the delivery time, we will purchase, bread, fruit, and hams with these monies.

We pray that our gift truly offers a bit of "White Christmas" to our fellow brethren! Thanks in advance for your participation in this meaningful ministry.



Josh Thompson

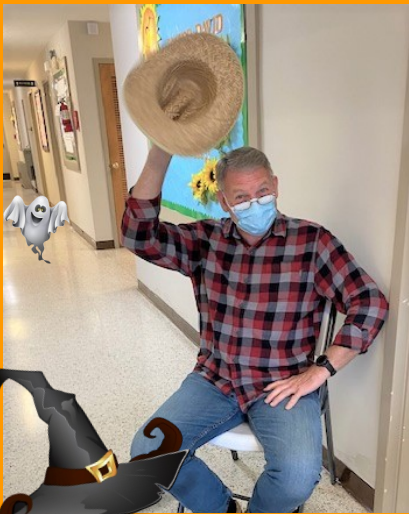
with

**Boulter Thompson &
Barnes, P.A.**

Three of the shareholders from Boulter Thompson & Barnes, P.A. were named to the South Carolina Super Lawyers and Rising Stars list for 2020. Attorneys selected for the Super Lawyers list have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. Only 5% or less of the SC state lawyers are selected each year. Attorneys selected for the Rising Stars list are recognized as the top up-and-coming attorneys in the state. No more than 2.5% of the 40 and under lawyers in the state are selected. Perry D. Boulter was recognized as a Super Lawyer. Joshua Thompson and A. Walker Barnes were recognized as Super Lawyers Rising Stars.

Joshua also made the inaugural Spartanburg Forty Under 40 list for his professional and personal contributions to Spartanburg County. He was also honored for this achievement by Wofford College, his alma mater, as being one of seven alumni to receive this award.

Grace would like to congratulate Joshua Thompson for these outstanding achievements. He is a former member of Grace and the son of Ralph and Jan Thompson.



GRACE'S DRIVE THRU TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday afternoon, October 25, was our first Drive Thru Trunk or Treat! Pastor David, Sue Keith, Tommy Bishop, Sally Summers, and Karen Hibbard enjoyed visits from the cutest "spooks" ever as they rode through our driveway and received generous treat bags of candy and toys! Much appreciation goes to our church family for donations of candy, toys, and prizes. Also, thank you to David and Sue Keith for all the fall decorations.



When I was little, my mom told me happiness was the way of life.

When I went to school, they asked what I wanted to be when I grew up.

I WROTE DOWN "happy".

They told me I didn't understand the assignment.

I told them they didn't understand LIFE.



The Key to Lasting Happiness

"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy..." – 1 Peter 1:8

What does it mean to be happy?

Dennis Wholey, author of a book called "Are You Happy?", reports that according to experts, only about 20% of Americans today are happy. One psychiatrist, Thomas Szasz, even went so far as to say, *"Happiness is an imaginary condition, formerly attributed by the living to the dead, now usually attributed by adults to children and by children to adults."*

To really understand the key to finding happiness, it's important to first understand what it is. Looking at the biblical use of the word, we find 'happy' is most often used to describe a state of being emotionally satisfied with one's circumstances. The problem, however, comes when those circumstances change.

This is why lasting happiness eludes almost everyone...because it's based upon our circumstances, which can change in a moment. But there is a biblical attitude that, when we have it, will keep us emotionally satisfied even when circumstances change – it's called 'joy'.

The key to lasting happiness is to let God's Spirit express joy through you that's not based on your current situation. Instead of looking for your circumstances to satisfy you, look to God to give you His inexpressible joy in all circumstances!

A Prayer Challenge for us -*Ask God to express His supernatural joy through you in all circumstances.*

Consider these – *"How have you seen God at work creating an attitude of joy in the midst of challenges for you or someone else?" "What circumstances are you facing today that require God's supernatural power for you to find happiness and contentment?"*



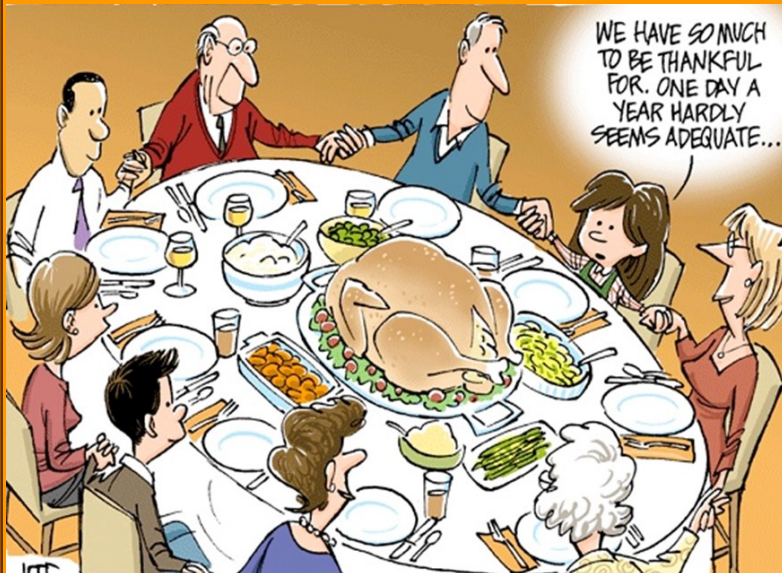
THE GRACE MESSENGER
 Grace United Methodist Church
 201 South Church Street
 Union, SC 29379
 E-mail: mail@graceunion.org



Happy Thanksgiving

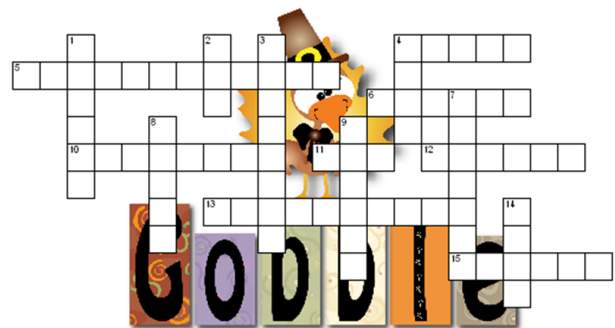
Oh give thanks to the LORD,
 for He is good;
 His love endures forever.
 I Chronicles 16:34

WWW.JASONSOROSKI.NET



Thanksgiving Holiday Crossword

www.kidscanhavefun.com



Across

4. Another name for corn.
5. Fourth Thursday in November in the United States
6. A Thanksgiving specialty _____ potatoes.
10. In the United States the Thanksgiving holiday is usually celebrated in the month of _____.
11. Besides turkey the most common meat dish for this holiday.
12. Traditionally, the Thanksgiving holiday often encompasses Thursday and _____.
13. A dessert made from a yellow-orange squash like vegetable.
15. One of the most common foods cooked for the Thanksgiving feast.

Down

1. For many Thanksgiving is primarily a celebration of _____.
2. Desserts usually include pecan and apple _____.
3. Thanksgiving commemorates a feast held in 1621 by the _____ and the Indians.
4. Often the extended family comes together for the Thanksgiving _____.
7. The yield from plants in a single growing season.
8. A meal of special significance.
9. Thanksgiving is a time when _____ and friends gather together to give thanks.
14. What dish did the Indians bring to the celebration?