



# 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

September, 2020

### "What Do We Do?"

Have you ever felt like you were on top of the world, and then a moment later you find yourself falling as though the world, like a rug, was yanked out from under you? Earlier this month I had this exact feeling. Several projects have been on going at the parsonage lately with the latest one being the drainage system under the house. After completion on Friday, I was returning to the house with Mr. Simmons from Upstate Mold Remediation. He was there to spray the basement area and the house to clear out the moldy, musty, mildew smell that had filled the house from all the digging.

When we got to the parsonage, the first thing I noticed was the wide open backdoor. My heart sank because I was there the day before, and I had shut and locked everything. Entering the house, with phone in hand on speed dial to Public Safety, I noticed the glass, wood, and brick on the bedroom floor. Our chests of drawers were opened, and the contents were strewn all around. A quick assessment revealed that someone had gone through everything in the house. I immediately looked for our safe, and it was gone! I thought about its contents: cash, jewelry, keepsakes from parents, and the documents. Would we ever be able to get those things back?

As I continued to look around, I saw that the thief had gone through a jewelry box. My high school and Clemson rings were still there, but a diamond tie tac was missing. There were documents on the chest that had not been bothered, but the thief stopped long enough to open a cookie tin and eat some cookies! WOW, what audacity!!! I went upstairs and in each bedroom the chests of drawers were open, things were scattered and any boxes holding valuable contents had been violated.

After calling Public Safety, I called Sherry with the sad news of the break-in. With deepened despair and discouragement, we shared our disappointment. When Public safety arrived, they began their questioning and inspecting. It was apparent that the broken window was the entry point. If we would have been home, the brick would have possibly hit Sherry as we slept! Continuing their investigation, Public Safety found where the thief had handled things, but there were no fingerprints, likely due to the use of latex gloves. The only promising clues were hair samples found in two of the bedrooms. It was clearly evident that the hair they found was NOT Sherry's or mine. At least that was a start. Public Safety finished their work. John and I put plastic and wire over the window to keep rain and any other person out. After everyone evacuated the premises, John and I could finally leave the daunting ordeal, but the shock and feeling of vulnerability remained.

Living on South Mountain Street has never given us a good warm fuzzy feeling because of the drugs, robberies, shootings, and need for constant police presence in the neighborhood. Just two weeks before, our locale witnessed a murder just across the street from the church. Another drive-by shooting ensued a couple of days later. With this break-in, we finally acknowledged our personal safety was in jeopardy. It is a difficult thing to admit that you are no longer safe in your home of eight years.

The thought, "What do we do?" filled my mind. My emotions ranged from being more than a little angry to praying for the person who broke in. In the days and weeks since, we have revisited that situation many times, asking the many unending questions of "Why???"

Now why even bring this up? Well, it's a great reminder about how we live. Do we live for our stuff or do we live for Jesus? Matthew 6:19-20 says, <sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal." In the midst of all that has gone on, yes, we're reminded we had stored up treasures on earth to begin our new home along with family keepsakes, but even greater was the reality that the treasures in heaven outweigh any loss of "our stuff". It is freeing to experience God's promise to never leave us or forsake us, and be reminded that He will always take care of all our needs. What a great opportunity to grow and praise God for all HIS promises!

My friends, how true it is that life's events cause us to change, but it doesn't have to change who and "Whose" we are. The reality is that Sherry and I still have our health and strength, but most of all our faith. Our God will always supply, and regardless of life's events, our future is truly in Him. Isn't it wonderful to "live and learn"? I pray that each day all of us will grow in faith, as we grow and acknowledge God's omnipotence. What a true blessing it is to fully trust that God always knows what we need...and live in His bounty! Blessings...Pastor David.

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2020

this grace of giving

Offering Report as of :		August 23, 2020
2020 Budget:	\$	379,325.00
Needed for 2020 Budget YTD:	\$	248,020.19
Budget Rec'd YTD:	\$	217,954.16
Surplus/Deficit YTD:	\$	-30,066.03
Weekly Offering Needed:	\$	7,294.71
This Week's Offering:	\$	2,185.00

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

### Circle of Hope:

No Meeting

**Johnnie Sanders**

**Circle:** No Meeting

**Lucy Lee Shuler**

**Circle:** No Meeting

★ Please remember to send in your pledges to Fran Love, 109 Carter Street, Union, SC, 29379.



The YAHs are still on hold until the current situation is resolved enough to consider coming together again. It has been a difficult Spring and Summer for us all, but with patience and perseverance we will meet once again, hopefully sometime this Fall.

### Family Night Supper



September will also be without a Family Night Supper. Here is a suggestion: On the evening of September 23rd, gather your family for supper, sit around the table, hold hands, and say a dinner

blessing asking God to keep all your families, friends, and church family healthy and blessed as they do the same for you. God will be so pleased to see a Family Night Supper done in such a beautiful way.

**GOD LOVES A  
CHEERFUL  
GIVER**



### Tithing During COVID-19 Closure

We would like to thank all of those who have so graciously continued to send in their offerings each week. Even though we are not having services, our obligations continue. If you have not mailed your offerings in, please do so. Our mailing address is: 201 S. Church Street. I am sure we all want to do our part in seeing that Grace's obligations are taken care of. May God bless each one of you.!

### Grayson Fallaw Has Arrived at Duke Divinity School

Grayson writes: "I am currently at Duke divinity going into my third week of classes. I have been enjoying my nice daily walks to class and being able to see the beautiful cathedral everyday! Thank you to everyone for your prayers as I am beginning this new journey. They mean the world to me." You can write to Grayson at:

- [gefallaw@umcsc.org](mailto:gefallaw@umcsc.org) or
- 1611 Duke University Road  
Unit E8  
Durham, NC 27701-2937



Grayson gave the sermon during a Youth Service on August 12, 2018. His message: How he came to the conclusion he was being called into the ministry.



Sunday, September 13 2020



## Church Was Never Cancelled!

Pastor David has been LIVE on every Sunday morning since we last met in church on March 15th.

\*Check out YouTube, Grace's Webpage, or Facebook Page

### Recent Church Re-Opening Decisions

With the COVID-19 pandemic and the upward direction it took this summer in Union County, it has been deemed a wise decision by the church leaders and Pastor David that Grace remain closed until after Labor Day. Once the Leadership Committee reconvenes, they will decide if we may begin in the sanctuary for Sunday morning worship services in mid September. Please keep your prayers lifted for the pandemic to show signs of fading and for the health and welfare of all our church members, officers, personnel, and Pastor David and Sherry. If you need further information or have questions, please give Pastor David a call at 803-480-2153.



FALL Begins on September 22, 2020



### The Parsonage

Due to a recent break-in at the church parsonage and the loss of valuables and memorabilia, Pastor David and Sherry have moved to their Spartanburg home for the time being. This is hopefully only temporary as the Trustees decide the next steps to take to safeguard the building. Please keep Pastor David and Sherry in your prayers as they deal with this transition.



Jesus said to him,

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*  
John 14:6 NKJ



Are You Ready? School starts on September 8, 2020!





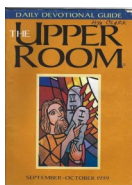
## Because We Care

Heartland Residential: Mary Jo Rogers  
John Flynn  
Ellen Sagar: Bernard Bishop  
Summit Hills, Sptbg: Elwood Eason  
White Oak, Sptbg.: Dr. Bob Kincheloe  
White Oak Rehab: Barbara Rippy  
White Oak at No. Grove: Peggy Langley  
Home: Ruth Roof  
Inverness, Sptbg.: Hazel Howell  
Cumberland Village, Aiken: Carolyn and  
Johnny Turner

### Chancel Choir And Bells of Grace



Grace Chancel Choir and Bells of Grace will continue to be off for the immediate future and until it's deemed safe to return to normal. Restarting this Fall still remains undecided.



#### UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS September - October 2020 AVAILABLE

Copies of the September/October Upper Room are available in the church office. If you would like to pick up a copy, please call Karen Hibbard at 864-426-1655 or send an e-mail message to: [khibbard72@gmail.com](mailto:khibbard72@gmail.com). Karen will be glad to help you set up a time when she will be there for you to stop by.

#### Attention Adult Sunday Schools



Due to our church closure and in an effort to be good stewards of our finances, the Fall Sunday School Lesson Books for the Clyburn-Whitener and Upper Room classes are currently on hold. If you would like to pick up a copy of the Summer Sunday School Lesson Books (if you do not already have one), please get in touch with Karen Hibbard at [khibbard72@gmail.com](mailto:khibbard72@gmail.com) or call (864) 426-1655. Karen will inform you of when she will be there, since we are not in the office on a regular basis at this time.

## September



- 1 Brad Valentine
- 3 Mimi Charles
- 5 Mary Finley
- 6 Ann G. Nichols
- 7 Carolyn Alexander
- 9 Nancy Mahan, Ruth Roof, Betsy Trakas
- 10 Jill Jeter, Sally Palmer
- 11 Megan Mathis
- 13 Dennis Langley
- 14 Helen Jolly, Becca Morrow
- 16 Alexa Robbins
- 18 Tommy Sherbert, Neely Swygert, Benjamin Williams
- 20 Charlie Kelly
- 21 Peggy Langley
- 22 Tommy Sinclair
- 23 Mary Brooks, Tommy Garner
- 24 Sherry Bauknight, Dawn Fallaw, Bayla Morrow
- 26 Mike Cassels, Janet Sherbert, Carson Valentine
- 27 Stan James, Virginia Walker, John Robbins
- 29 Addison Ivey
- 30 Ruth Robertson, Amy Price Shepherd

The life of a person is measured  
not with the years,  
but with the footprint that he  
leaves in other peoples' lives,  
thoughts and hearts.

Have a lovely birthday!

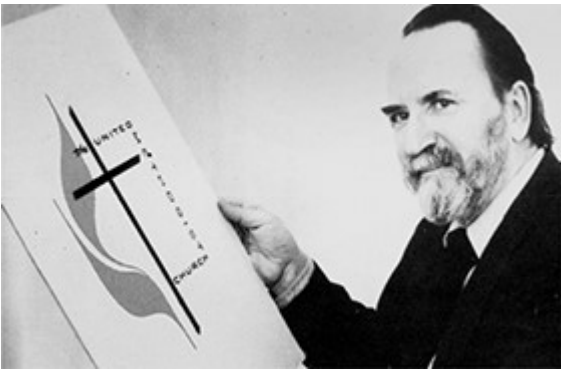


## *Has The United Methodist Church always had a symbol like the cross and flame?*



The official insignia of The United Methodist Church has been the [Cross and Flame](#) since its founding in 1968. Prior to that, the Evangelical United Brethren Church, one of our predecessors, adopted an insignia with the church name encircling clasped hands in front of a Latin cross. The symbols and seals for other predecessor denominations were generally varied in form and use.

In 1966, a commission on church union, representing The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren, was authorized to develop an official insignia. Edward J. Mikula (art director) and Edwin H. Maynard (editorial director) were appointed to develop the design.



*Artist Edward J. Mikula poses with the Cross and Flame emblem he had designed in 1968. This photo is from the book Keeping Up With The Revolution by Edwin Maynard. Archived Photo, United Methodist Communications.*

Early on they established [principles for the design](#): that it should be simple, bold, instantly recognizable, obviously Christian and uniquely Wesleyan. They determined that it should have official colors, but also be capable of reproduction in black and white.

One of their designs, the one officially adopted, was the Cross and Flame. Following more than two dozen conceptualizations, a traditional symbol of the cross was linked with a single flame with dual tongues of fire.

The resulting insignia is rich in meaning. It relates The United Methodist Church to God through Christ (cross) and the Holy Spirit (flame). The flame is a reminder of Pentecost when witnesses were unified by the power of the Holy Spirit and saw "tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:3).

The elements of the emblem also recall a transforming moment in the life of Methodism's founder, John Wesley, when he sensed God's presence and felt his heart "strangely warmed." The two tongues can also represent the two bodies that united in 1968 to form The United Methodist Church.

The 1968 Uniting Conference adopted this design as the official insignia of the new denomination, and so it has been to this day.

Excerpted from "[The Cross and Flame: A Personal Memoir](#)" by Edwin H. Maynard

Have questions? [Ask The UMC](#) or talk with a pastor [near you](#).

*This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.*

## Epworth's Work Day Offering

It has been a much different time at Epworth these last few months, but they have been fortunate, and are blessed daily. Epworth's Annual Work Day Offering through United Methodist congregations is Sunday, September, 13<sup>th</sup>. Currently, over 80 children call Epworth home. Each of these children have found refuge in the ministry we share as United Methodists in SC. Epworth Children's Home has been welcoming children in Christ's name for 124 years through the generous support of churches like ours! They have gone above and beyond providing food and shelter for children who have experienced abuse, neglect and tragedy. It provides children with tutoring, counseling, health care, fun activities, and the spiritual formation they need to heal and gain a sense of belonging. While the offering's emphasis has shifted a bit over the years, it is still important that we come together to provide spiritual, educational, emotional and physical support for the children at Epworth. It is the UMC's mission to support them. As you consider what God is calling you to give to support our church's ministry to children, remember Christ's command to let the little children come to him. He embraces them, welcomes them, loves them and teaches them. Epworth is answering this call to let the little children come. Please consider your gift and then mail it to Grace. Please make out your check to: **Grace UMC and designate for Epworth Children's Home.**

Thank you in advance for your support of our Ministry.  
John Holler  
President, Epworth Children's Home

Sunday, September 13, 2020



During this time of uncertainty, children need the gift of hope.

# Gift of Hope

Mother's Day Offering • Work Day Offering

[www.epworthchildrenshome.org/give](http://www.epworthchildrenshome.org/give)

The link to online giving is:

<https://www.epworthchildrenshome.org/give/>

You can visit them on the web at:

[www.epworthchildrenshome.org](http://www.epworthchildrenshome.org) or find them on Facebook

You can view a video on the link listed here:

<https://youtu.be/hDHxMf86tTc>

NEVER FORGET.  
09.11.2001

## 2020 Sonshiners/MCF Schedule

We are missing our Sonshiners and MCFers!!! Our 2020 Fall schedule for our Sonshiners/MCF is currently "to be determined" since our church activities remain cancelled due to the COVID- 19 Pandemic. Plans for Sonshiners/ MCF activities will be scheduled as soon as safely possible. Please continue to pray for this COVID-19 pandemic to lessen so we can begin to return to some sense of normalcy.



## Virtual Group Meetings Via ZOOM

Dale Goff is still willing to help your circle meetings, Bible study, committee meetings, etc., resume again virtually through the ZOOM site. If you'd like to get back together again, the ZOOM site allows you to via live video. All you need are the email addresses and when your meetings will occur. To get started just get in touch with Dale Goff at [goffd@bellsouth.net](mailto:goffd@bellsouth.net) or call her at 864- 426-2037 and she will set up your virtual meeting. This is a great way for us to get back together. It's a "New Norm", at least for now. If you'd like to start something new, Dale is ready to set you up. Consider the possibilities. Take the initiative, and get back together. Just give Dale a call or email and she will tell you all about it. There is no reason why we can't be together virtually! Give it a try!





## A Fun and Successful Zoom VBS!!

**"F.R.O.G."**

**(FULLY RELY ON GOD)**

**Vacation Bible School**

**Held August 2 - 4, 2020**

After much planning and preparation, our 2020 Zoom Vacation Bible School, entitled **"FROG" (Fully Rely On God)** was held on August 2 – 4 (Sunday – Tuesday) beginning at 6:00 pm. Melissa Wagner and Karen Hibbard enjoyed "VBS zooming" with **Lane Wagner, Ember and Gage Love, Wesley Robbins, Bayla and Cullen Morrow, Annaleigh Hart, Ren, Cooper, and Corley Turner, and Ezra and Ray – Ray Smith**. Our VBS plans included introducing Biblical characters such as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace, Daniel and the Lion's Den, and David and Goliath. The children learned how these persons survived against all odds because of their faith in God. God did not give up on them and will never give up on us!

Many, many thanks to **Pastor David and Mrs. Sherry, Dr. Allan Charles and Melissa Wagner** who so vividly relayed the stories of each character and brought them to life for the children! VBS packets for each day were delivered to each family with all the materials needed for each craft, as well as our VBS songs and snacks! The children enjoyed introducing their frog puppets to everyone, making a lion pillow, and also a "I Love Jesus, Jesus Loves Me" Cross Craft. Also thank you to all the children, their parents and grandparents for your support and participation in our very first ZOOM VBS!! The children will always remember this unique VBS and hopefully will apply the stories to grow closer to God and know they can always count on Him.



Prepared packets for each child



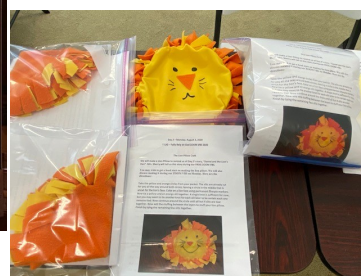
Karen, Lane, and Melissa at ZOOM station



The story of David and Goliath unfolds before them



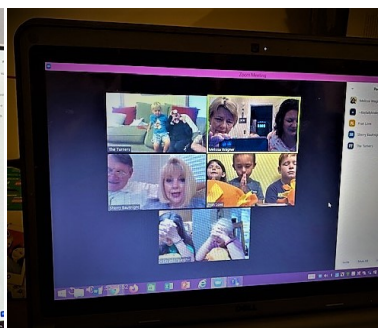
F.R.O.G. bracelets for every participant



Craft packets for the kids



Pastor David and Melissa ZOOMing a lesson



Praying with Miss Sherry



Melissa teaching about F.R.O.G. (Fully Rely On God)



More ZOOMing with everyone



## Prayer Requests:

*(Additional prayer requests and updates from August 2020 newsletter)*

- ♦ Sanders Read (post-ear tumor surgery on July 31, 2020 – benign and doing well)
- ♦ Frank and Betty Alexander (recovering from COVID-19 – Terry Gossett's in-laws and wife Kathy's parents)
- ♦ JoAnne Mason (heart and moving to North Augusta next door to daughter Julie Mason Goley)
- ♦ Peggy Langley (post-fractured hip/surgery, White Oak Rehab at No. Grove, 290 No. Medical Park Drive, Room 607, Sptbg, SC 29303)
- ♦ Maggie Beth Betenbaugh (home post-kidney condition and post-dialysis - Donnie and Crystal Betenbaugh's daughter and Abbie Valentine's UCHS Softball friend Bailey's sister)
- ♦ Mary Fleming and brother Bobby Smith (recovering from COVID-19)
- ♦ Michelle Helton (recurring sarcoma and post-surgery on August 7, 2020, back in hospital with probable infection – Brooke Valentine's friend)
- ♦ Allison and Brandon Gardner (Baby Boy Kip's arrival on August 11, 2020)
- ♦ John Brown (25% heart blood flow - Brenda Brown's husband)
- ♦ Melva Ledwell (post-cornea transplant surgery on August 11, 2020 – Rev. Nels Ledwell and Karen Hibbard's mother, Glenn Hibbard's mother-in-law)
- ♦ Robert "Bobby" Nitz (pancreatic CA and treatments – Donna Nitz Kell's nephew and Sheryl Price's cousin)
- ♦ John Clementson (CA of mouth/surgery August 17, 2020 – father of Dr. Blair Wetmore Clementson's husband Charles)
- ♦ Brad Love (Assisted Living and confused by changes due to COVID-19 pandemic)
- ♦ Mike and Jake McGee (recovering asymptomatic COVID-19)
- ♦ Pastor David and Sherry Bauknight (parsonage break-in and subsequent move to Spartanburg home) (Arlington trip for William Gene Kell's ANC burial service)
- ♦ Donna Kell, Rusty and Sheryl Price, Brooke, Brad, Abbie, and Carson Valentine (trip to Washington, DC for Arlington National Cemetery Military burial service for "Bill" William Gene Kell on September 3, 2020. Donna's husband, Sheryl's father, Rusty's father-in-law, Brooke's grandfather, Brad's grandfather-in-law, and great-grandfather of Abbie and Carson)
- ♦ Peggy Waller (progressive CA – Inn at Merridun owner, has had to close up and move in with mother)
- ♦ Bernard Bishop (Ellen Sagar – 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on Wednesday, August 19, 2020)
- ♦ Lorna Nitz (moved to memory care facility in Arlington Heights, IL - Donna Nitz Kell's sister-in-law and brother Dean's wife, Sheryl Kell Price's Aunt)
- ♦ and all unspoken requests.

## Remember in Prayer:

- ♦ Bennie Ronald "Buddy" Fleming, Mary Fleming's husband and Ron Fleming's father, who passed away from COVID-19 on July 30, 2020
- ♦ Jerry Christenbury, Danny Inman's partner, who passed away from COVID-19 in August.



Please let Pastor David and Sheryl know of any prayer needs that may occur. Call or email us anytime.



### Newsletter information

I am always looking for newsletter articles and pictures. Please consider sending in noteworthy information to me at:

[mail@graceunion.org](mailto:mail@graceunion.org). It

takes all of us working together to have the best possible newsletter. **Deadline for the October Grace Messenger will be September 16th.**



### Christian Education Sunday 2020

Christian Education Sunday will be observed as soon as safely possible. We are so looking forward to being back in our beautiful church sanctuary for in person worship. Hopefully then we will recognize our Christian Educators as well as our rising third and sixth graders. Congratulations will go to our third graders, Gage Love and Quinton Wilkes, and our sixth graders, Bayla Morrow and Ben Balkum. Pastor David will present a Bible to each of them. We pray this presentation will begin a lifelong devotion for each child to read and study his Bible and grow in God's word.



# School Prayer to Trust in God

**I will trust in the Lord with all my heart and not depend on my own understanding. I will seek His will in all I do, and He will show me which path to take. (adapted from Proverbs 3:5-6)**

Lord, we walk into this year completely dependent upon You. When we begin to lean on our own understanding, remind us that Your ways far surpass ours. Thank you in advance for showing us the right paths and leading us in the way we should go. We don't know what this year has in store, but You do. We trust in Your ability to care for us. In Jesus' name, Amen!



The waning days of summer traditionally has meant the beginning of a new school year, along with shopping for supplies, meeting new teachers and classmates—it's usually a hectic but promising time of year.

This year, however, many students, families and others face new circumstances and unusual challenges. Complications abound. Some schools are reopening but others are offering only online options. Some families have a choice, others don't. For all the differences, though, one thing is common, everywhere and for everyone: [we need prayer](#). Here are six short prayers for our new educational landscape.

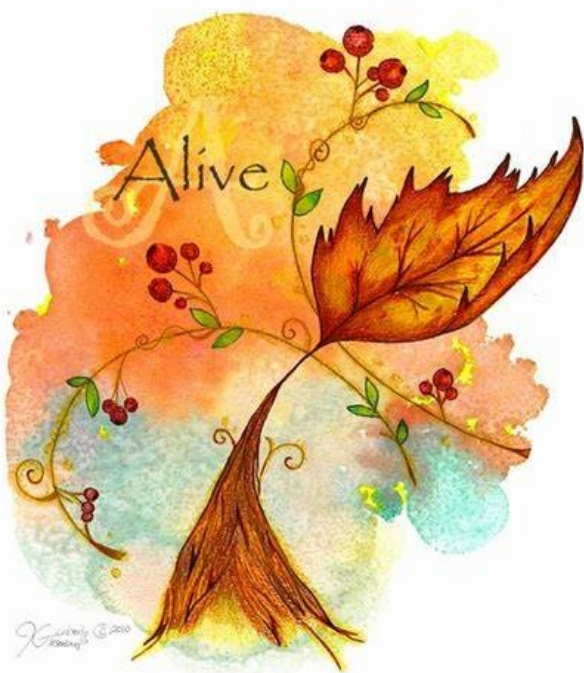
- 1) God, grant wisdom and understanding to the **public officials, school boards, superintendents, administrators** and more who are juggling so many concerns and challenges for this coming school year. Shower them with [creativity and clarity](#) in all of the work they must do.
- 2) Lord, please have mercy on the **parents and other caregivers** of students who face perplexing situations and schedules. Help those who must juggle the task of providing for their families and their children's need for education. Bring order out of confusion and [hope from despair](#).
- 3) Heavenly Father, help **students of all ages** in the coming days, weeks and months. Encourage those who suffer from a lack of social interaction. Empower those who need help with online learning. Encourage those with special needs. And please keep them all safe and healthy while they learn.
- 4) Lord, you know the situations faced by **teachers and tutors** at this time, some of whom must [enter the front lines](#), others who must learn new ways of teaching, and still others who must cope with idleness and uncertainty. Please come to them and [strengthen them](#), granting fresh ideas and miraculous effectiveness in their workplaces and work challenges.
- 5) God, hear our prayers for school system personnel facing even more challenges than usual in their lives and livelihoods: **custodial staff, cafeteria staff, bus drivers, and others**. [Provide for the unemployed](#) and under-employed. Help those who are struggling. Grant relief to those who are overworked and encouragement to those who are overwhelmed.
- 6) For all of the above, Lord, please protect and preserve them physically, emotionally and mentally. Keep them safe and healthy; [increase their strength](#) and stamina now and in the future, in Jesus' name, amen.





## THE GRACE MESSENGER

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201 South. Church Street  
Union, SC 29379  
E-mail: [mail@graceunion.org](mailto:mail@graceunion.org)



Life withers life.  
Change transforms change.  
But You God, are the replenishing light...  
Delivering life to my veins.

## Back to School

### Clues

1. Something you can use to type on and go online on.
2. Where you find countries on.
3. What a student sometimes wear to school.
4. What you do at school.
5. What you write with.
6. What American people call the break between two lessons.
7. What you have to see how well you have studied.
8. You read in them.
9. A period away from school.
10. What you use to write on the blackboard.
11. A student sits at this.
12. Books are made up of these.
13. What students shouldn't make!
14. You use it in Maths.
15. What is "Bend It Like Beckham"? A .....
16. What you should take during lessons.
17. American for rubber.
18. You find many of these in books.
19. It is white and comes in sheets.
20. What students often ride to get to school in America.
21. Another word for a group of friends.



Mia: "I think we need a new teacher"

Mum: "Why is that?"

"Our teacher doesn't know anything she keeps....."

