

February

Ambassador 2023

Sharing the love of God in Jesus Christ.

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**You are invited to observe live a holy Lent…**

Ash Wednesday, February 22, 7:00pm Let the 40 Days Begin

1st Sunday in Lent, February 26, 10:30am In God We Trust

2nd Sunday in Lent, March 5, 10:30am Blessed to Be a Blessing

3rd Sunday in Lent, March 12, 10:30am The Wilderness of Sin

4th Sunday in Lent, March 19, 10:30am Don’t Get Distracted

5th Sunday in Lent, March 26, 10:30am Dem Bones!

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 2, 10:30am Rounding the Corner

Holy Thursday, April 6, 7:00pm Such a Sacrifice

Good Friday, April 7, 7:00pm The Passion of Christ

**GREAT TURN-OUT FOR LEADERSHIP SUMMIT!**

Over two dozen Pleasant Grove leaders gathered for a Leadership Summit on Sunday afternoon, January 29th. Following a delicious soup and sandwich lunch and words of Welcome by Pastor Dana, the Summit moved into prayer and a devotional led by our Lay Leader, Mary Cheatham.

Mary’s message was based on Ephesians 4:23, “Let the Spirit new our minds…” She spoke about “renewing our thoughts and attitudes by continuing to cultivate a compassionate and friendly congregation, accept and enact necessary changes, and follow our mission of making disciples.”

After the devotional, the Summit was facilitated by the Rev. Blair Zant, Director of the North Georgia Center for Congregational Excellence. Blair led Pleasant Grove’s leaders through the life-cycle of a church indicating it was time to cast a new vision for our church: “What is God calling us to do today?”

Blair walked through Pleasant Grove’s SCOT Analysis: **S**trengths, **C**hallenges, **O**pportunities and **T**hreats, based on surveys taken by the leaders and a demographic survey of our community. She helped our leaders identify challenges and opportunities for Pleasant Grove in worship, discipleship and the community by becoming more invitational, intentional, engaging and visible.

Blair next asked, “How might we?” and invited our leaders to “dream and scheme” about meeting Pleasant Grove’s challenges and opportunities in four areas:

* How might we improve our welcome and invitation?
* How might we increase lay confidence and courage in owning ministry and decision-making?
* How might we establish missional partners to expand sustainable ministry?
* How might we strengthen our financial house?

Leaders brain-stormed dozens of ideas and prioritized them.

What’s next? Our leaders will reconvene soon to select, plan and tackle several of these challenges and opportunities in 2023.

**GET YOUR CANS TO CHURCH, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH**

It’s Souper Bowl Sunday, and you’re invited to bring cans of soup to church that day. Soup will be donated to the food pantry at The Place in Cumming.

**YOUTH SUPER BOWL PARTY**

Youth will gather at the parsonage beginning at 6:00 p.m. to watch the Super Bowl together. Bring a super snack to share!

**STUDY FOR LENT: REDISCOVERING JONAH**

Most of us learned the story of Jonah and the whale when we were children. There's a lot more to the story!  You're invited to study the grown-up version of the story for Lent -- a story of resistance and repentance, sin and forgiveness, and grace. Join Pastor Dana on Tuesday mornings (times vary) or Tuesday evenings at 6:30 in the Club House, February 28-April 4, as we learn about Jonah anew through Tim Keller's book, Rediscovering Jonah: The Secret of God's Mercy. Cost: $15. Order through Diane in the church office by February 14th.

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

You're invited to observe a holy Lent, beginning with our Ash Wednesday Service on February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. It will be a time of prayer and preparation for the season, including the imposition of ashes.

Honduras Outreach

“Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can”   John Wesley

Again, I am returning to Honduras.  We are traveling on June 17, 2023.   Many know, because of my neck injury I was unable to go last June with the team.  However, I had already purchased medical supplies and medications with the money given to me by my church family and friends.

In April, we had packed and shipped them and other, VBS and construction supplies.  Two team members trucked the boxes to New Orleans port and they were put on a ship to Honduras.  (It takes about 6-8 weeks for them to be transported and unloaded.).   They were there when the team arrived.

The money given to me after shipment,

I purchased last minute request and a team member took them in a piece of luggage.  Also, money to buy food for the very poor.  Unfortunately, if you made your check out to the church, because of privacy of church members, I was not given the name or the amount of those that were so gracious to support our ministry.  That was the reason you did not get a thank you note nor receipts, as you have in the past, on what I purchased with your generous donation.

Saturday, we had a team meeting, and we decided to again purchase early,

pack and again ship before the team goes.  This has worked well the last two years.  This method is easier than having to deal with each of the team having so many pieces of luggage to be responsible, and a chance it might not get there.  We will be shipping the last of March or early April.

A list of most needed items is included.  As in the past I will be happy to purchase for you, and send you a receipt.  In order to do this, please make your check out to me.

My heart is full of gratitude and just a big Thank You for you support.

Blessings, Terra

**Medical supplies and Over the counter medications.**

**(Generics are fine)**

Tylenol (acetaminophen)

Aspirin 81 mg.

Ibuprofen for adults and children

Aleve

Ranitidine tablets

Tums

Cold and flu medication for adults and

         Children

Allergy for adults and children

Benedryl for adults and children

Cough syrup for adults and children

Antiseptic throat spray

Cough drops

Nasal spray

Ear wax removal kits

Ace bandages any size width

Disposable examination  gloves

    Medium and large

Disposable N-95 mask

Tooth brushes, adult and children

Tooth paste

Medical tape

Hydrocortisone cream

Neosporin

Triple antibiotic ointment

Vitamins::   Children prenatal, adults,

                      Adults 50 plus

Prayer Chain

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray.

Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14

Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the

church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. James 5:13-14

If you have a need for special prayer, please call or text Jennifer Wisniewski at 404-226-0023. If you would like to be on the prayer chain call Jennifer or the Church Office (770- 844-7095) and your name will be added to the list.

Calling Post, who sends out our prayer line messages, has recently changed the phone numbers the calls are being sent from. If you have any kind of call screening or blocking on your phone and you are having trouble getting prayer line messages, please add the following as safe numbers (405) 669-9959, (405) 669-9890 and (405) 669-9887.

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**Worship Servants for February**

February 5 February 12

Greeter- Jane Martin Greeter- Tammy McGrady

Acolyte-Marielle Sacca Acolyte- Lucas Restrepo

Liturgist- Amy Faulkenberry Liturgist-Chris Bannon

Ushers- Jane Martin & Steve Massie Ushers- Tammy McGrady &

Seth Steinberg

February 19 February 26

Greeter- Beth Blalock Greeter- Rex Tallant

Acolyte-Paige Restrepo Acolyte- Marielle Sacca

Liturgist – Diane Gilbert Liturgist- Josh Sacca

Ushers- Beth & Terry Blalock Ushers-Rex & Denise Tallant

If you are unable to be the servant on the designated Sunday, please let Diane know.

Thank You for your Service!

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| February |
| 2023 |
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February Birthdays and Anniversaries

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

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| *Sunday* | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *5* | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|  |  | Paige & Lucas Restrepo | Zoe Scott | Pat Bradley | Morris Williams | Rex & Denise Tallant |
| *12* | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | Paul Cheatham |
| *19* | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| Amy Murphy | Jason & Amy Murphy  Gavin & Darlene Delaney |  |  |  | Dave & Jane Martin |  |
| *26* | 27 | 28 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Kelley Tribble  Katrina Restrepo |  |  |  |  |  |
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| February |
| 2023 |
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Calendar Events

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| *Sunday* | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|  |  |  | Choir- 6:30 | Quilting—9-1 |  |  |
| *5* | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Worship-10:30  Girl Scouts-3-5 |  | Lent Study-11  Lent Study-6:30 | Choir- 6:30 | Quilting—9-1 |  |  |
| *12* | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| Worship-10:30 |  | Lent Study-9:30  JOY Club-12  Lent Study-6:30 | Choir- 6:30 | Quilting—9-1 |  |  |
| *19* | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| Worship-10:30 | 12:30- United Women of Faith  (CH) | Lent Study-11  Lent Study-6:30 | Choir- 6:30  Ash Wednesday-7 | Quilting—9-1 |  |  |
| *26* | 27 | 28 |  |  |  |  |
| Worship-10:30 |  | Lent Study-11  Lent Study-6:30 |  |  |  |  |
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