HATRED IS A SPIRITUAL DISEASE

Hatred is a spiritual disease. It steals your life. It steals your capacity for joy. It justifies itself by judging the people you hate as subhuman. After declaring groups or races of people subhuman – it is only a short trip to rationalize violence.

That is how the disease of hatred metastasizes. It seems to be growing.

America has big dreams! America was designed to be dangerously free. We have said we can tolerate “free speech” – even speech we disagree with. That is a noble thought presuming a noble people who can listen to objectionable speech, wait their turn, then either renounce or disprove what was just said.

Centuries have gone by. We have not become the patient debating club that our founders seem to have envisioned. Some citizens will not tolerate any speech they disagree with. Some citizens, lacking the words or will to communicate, resort to violence as a first choice. If debate and exchange of ideas gives way to violence, then I suppose the most violent among us win and competing ideas lose. The path between the extremes on any position can never be discovered if violent response becomes the order of the day.

Of course, you cannot compromise with hate. But if our response is to hate the haters – I’m afraid, in some way, we have joined their side. How do we confront hate and violence as followers of Christ?

Ponder the high ideals of the second sentence of the Declaration of Independence:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

But when written, the above ideals did not extend to African slaves. Were they not also “men” of the same “Creator”?

We have not outgrown racial bigotry. Some use their freedom to spread it. How can Christians use our freedom to overcome bigotry? Sometimes a simple challenge can change a person’s whole world.

People can and do change: My beloved Grandmother was brought up as a garden variety East Tennessee racist. Nothing violent, but she grew up in a monolithic world where racism was the norm. Toward the end of her life my little sister asked her, “Memaw, do you think Jesus would like you calling black people [the N word]?”

Memaw thought about it a long time and finally said, “No, I don’t think Jesus would like that at all.” It had been the way she grew up. The challenge came from her precocious granddaughter and her childlike faith. Memaw’s worldview began to change. I’m a witness to that.

Pray for people infected with the disease of hatred. Pray for their victims. Pray that our country grow into its highest ideals of freedom and rights endowed by our One Creator to our One Humanity.

Yours in Christ, Rev. Jim Dennis, Jr.
**CHILDREN’S MINISTRY:** Making Young Disciples of Christ

---

**THIRD Sunday, August 20 is Promotion Sunday and Blessings of the Backpacks!**
(see back page of Newsletter)
Come and meet your new Sunday School teachers and enjoy sno cones in the breezeway!

---

**NEW THIS FALL**
**Guitar Class will move to Sundays at 5:00 PM beginning Sept. 10 following the Wesley Singers! If you are a youth or adult and know basic guitar chords, we’d love for you to come and help.**
Contact Beverly Blevins

---

**Bibles For New Third Graders**
**Presented at 11:00 AM worship, Sept. 10**
Please contact Beverly Blevins (beverly@poteraceumc.org) if you have a child going into the third grade so we may order a special Bible for them.

---

**Wednesday WINGS DRAMA / Bible Study for 4th—5th grade at 6:15 PM**
Led by Yolanda McCabe, Jenny Lou Jones, Christy McClintock and Cameron Quinn
Location: Asbury Bldg. 1st & 2nd grade classrooms
“Come and See, Walk With Me”

What happens when two programs, Drama and Grace Kids Club, collide into each other? An “Explosion” of FUN! **ALL Kids 5k - 5th grade are invited to join us in our new Bible Study, “Come and See, Walk With Me”**.
We will meet in the 1st and 2nd grade Sunday School classrooms.

Each month, we will explore and bring to life a different bible story in the following format:
- **Week (1)** - drama writing and improv acting
- **Week (2)** - arts and craft prop projects
- **Week (3)** - science experiments and object lessons
- **Week (4)** - gym time activities to summarize the bible study

Yolanda McCabe Tabbymccabe@att.net

Please join us for our WINGS meal and fellowship beginning at 5:30 PM.
Call the office, 279-7525, by Tuesday at noon. Thank you!

---

**YOUTH: Passion for Christ | Passion for people**

---

**Upcoming Activities and Events**

**AUGUST**
August 20: Promotion Sunday | AMPED Kick Off | Parent’s Meeting
August 27: Ed Kilbourne Concert 5:00 PM | AMPED

**SEPTEMBER**
September 3: NO AMPED (Labor Day Weekend)

---

**THIS Sunday, August 20**
During our 8:45 LifeSong and 11:00 AM Worship services.

**Blessing of the Backpacks**
Bring your backpacks to worship as we ask God’s blessings on a new school year.
For students and educators of all ages.
It's about to "EXPLODE"...
It's drama...it's fun...it's active...it's Bible study...

WINGS Programs for Adults: begins Sept. 6 at 6:15 p.m.
* Financial Peace University led by John Travis and John Bigger
  Fee for resources is $100
  See Beverly Blevins to register or for more information
* Marriage Enrichment led by Caroline Dennis
* Chrsmon Repair Workshop led by Janis Collins
* GriefShare led by Sherry Smith, workbook $20
  (Look for more info to come for GriefShare)

Please let us know you will be coming in the Fall!
Beginning Sept. 6, please look for changes with meal reservations.
COST: $6 per adult, $3 for children 3 - 10, free for children under 3.
Family max cost: $20; First time visitors receive a free meal.

Coming this Fall on Wednesdays at 6:15 (see page 2)
WINGS Drama / Bible Study for Preschool & Children
Location: Asbury Bldg. 2nd grade classroom
Children's Bible Stories
“Come and See, Walk With Me”

Making Sense of Jesus
What: “Making Sense of Jesus: Exploring who Jesus is by the words Jesus speaks.”
A bible study led by Rev. Tyler Strange

Location: The Rapids Clubhouse (The Rapids subdivision)
620 River Bluff Dr, North Augusta, SC 29841
When: Continues Wednesday, August 16, and 23.
Time: 6:30 pm
Who: Anyone.

Contact Rev. Tyler Strange (tyler@gotgraceumc.org) with questions.

Looking ahead:
GET INVOLVED with United Methodist Men
Invite a friend, a new member...
3rd Mondays, Sept. - May (except 4th for November)
Begins September 18 at 6:30 PM
Cost: $12.00

Enjoy a meal of steak or chicken, great fellowship and a program afterwards!

Sept. 18 Program: “Coming to America”
Hmm...who came to the US to see the Grand Canyon and Disneyland, and has stayed for 35 plus years??

It’s about to "EXPLODE"...
It's drama...it's fun...it's active...it's Bible study...

Bible stories will come alive and "explode your brain cells" as we start our new Drama Explosion on Wednesdays starting Sept 6th.

We want to make sure that we are ready for you on Wed night, Sept. 6th, 6:15 PM.
So.........let's start with something fun!

Could you get your mom or dad’s phone and send me a selfie with your name and your parents’ name so we will know that you are coming? Here’s my number 803-439-4582
Ok, you probably need to ask permission first! Ask your friends to come with you. They do not have to be a Grace attender to have this kind of fun.
Who: 5k - 5th grade; Where: 1st and 2nd Grade Asbury Bldg.

Chancel Bells resume Wednesdays at 6PM
Chancel Choir rehearsals at 7PM

Grace Chancel Concert Series
Begins October 8
Concert details coming soon!

Lake Junaluska
Conference & Retreat Center
September 2 – 4
Looking forward to another great time of singing and fellowship.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| SUNDAY, Aug. 20 | 8:30 AM 830 Worship - Gathering, Sanctuary  
8:45 AM LifeSong Contemporary Worship, Wesley Center  
8:45 & 11:00 AM BLAST program, Asbury Building  
9:45 AM Sunday School, Campus, All ages  
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Sanctuary  
4:00 & 5:00 PM Kindermusik Village & Our Time, Asbury 206 |
| MONDAY, Aug. 21    | 8:30 AM Staff meeting, Conference room  
9:15 AM Jazzercise, Curly’s Court FC Gym |
| TUESDAY, Aug. 22   | 6:00 PM Jazzercise, Curly’s Court FC Gym |
| WEDNESDAY, Aug. 23 | 9:15 AM Jazzercise, Curly’s Court FC Gym  
10:00 AM GIFTS morning group, Youth Wing  
10:00 & 11:00 AM Kindermusik Our Time & Village, Asbury 206  
12:30 PM Newsletter Folding & Labeling crew, Conference room  
2:00 PM Kids Club, Bus & Curly’s Court Family Center  
5:00 PM Holy Walkamolees, Curly’s Court FC Gym  
6:00 PM Chancel Bells, Bitchington Choir room  
6:15 PM GIFTS Evening group, Wesley Center room C  
6:15 PM Grace Worship Team Family Group, WC Parlor  
7:00 PM Chancel Choir, Bitchington Choir room  
7:00 PM Worship Run-Through, Wesley Center  
8:00 PM Men’s Basketball, Curly’s Court FC Gym |
| THURSDAY, Aug. 24  | 9:00 AM Agape Pastoral Counseling, Lower level Wesley Center  
11:30 AM Wisdom of the Ages, Conference room  
1:00 PM Library Committee, Library  
2:00 PM Kids Club, Bus & Curly’s Court Family Center  
6:00 PM Caring and Sharing, Lower level Wesley Center  
6:45 PM Jazzercise, Curly’s Court, FC Gym  
6:45 PM LifeSong Committee meeting, Conference room |
| FRIDAY, Aug. 25    | Bus - Boy Scouts, Lakeside, Fri—Sunday  
2:00 PM Kids Club, Bus & Curly’s Court Family Center |
| SATURDAY, Aug. 27  | 9:00 AM Pillow Ministry, Wesley Center (see below)  
9:15 AM Jazzercise, Curly’s Court FC Gym  
6:00 PM Girl Scout Parent Meeting, Youth Wing |

**COMING Saturday, August 26!**  
*from our United Methodist Women*  
We are starting earlier this year! 9:00 - 10:00 AM  
Join us for Fellowship in the Wesley Center

Then... the SEWING begins  
From 10:00 - 12:00 PM  
*FYI: There will not be a luncheon this year.*

**GRACE BAZAAR**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18**  
**WESLEY CENTER**  
**11:00 a.m. To 6:00 p.m.**

---

**Looking ahead to our next Mission Trip**  
**2018 Medical Team to Bolivia**

Applications are now being accepted for the June 8 - 17, 2018 medical team to Bolivia. A team of 12 made up of medical personnel as well as lay helpers is our goal. Applications can be found in the Asbury Bldg. lobby.

Deadline to apply is August 31, 2017. Questions?  
Contact Janis Collins @ janlyn618@gmail.com or 803-215-0731.

---

**OUR NEW FINANCIAL SECRETARY**  
Please welcome to our Staff, Debbie Yano, not “new” to Grace or the office, but New as our Financial Secretary! She had been on the Count Team, has been involved in many major volunteer roles here at Grace and including our Friday receptionist. Please welcome and thank her for taking this very important position at Grace.

From the office
**FAITHFULNESS**

We promise to uphold Grace with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness

**OUR PRAYER and PRAISE REQUESTS:** week of August 14, 2017

- University Hosp.: Jeff Pope, son of Liz and Jim Pope
- Prayer request: Karolyn Zippler, Martha Claire Farmer, Madeline Elrod, Ashley Stallings, Matt Masters
- Sympathies to: Kitty Grogan in death of sister, Flo Underwood, Aug. 3
- Betty Wanniger in death of brother, Marcus Huff, Aug. 5
- Bill Anderson in the death of brother, Bruce, Aug. 9
- Jean Gambill in death of sister, Grace Cook, Aug. 9

**OUR PRESENCE:** August 13

- Worship: 454
- Sunday School: 311

**OUR SERVICE:** August 20

- Acolytes: Haley Gross, Brooklyn Gross
- Crucifer: Bryson Parler
- Count Team: 8/21 E.J. Holgate, Peggie Ruben, Henry Smith
- Offertory: Karen Denny
- 8:30 Layreader: Peggie Ruben
- 8:30 Greeter(s): Mickey & Peggie Ruben
- 11:00 Greeter(s): (Main) Gene & Terry Heath
  (Ga. Avenue) Lark & Christy Jones
- Doorstep Visitation: Dave & Frances Redmond
- LifeSong Refreshments: Susanna Wesley Circle
- Flower Committee: Joe & Laura Lusk

**ALTAR FLOWERS for August 20**

The beautiful flowers on the altar are placed there to the glory of God in memory of The Rev. Dr. James Hunter

By Billy and Sandra Watson & Family

**Memorials through August 13, 2017**

**IN MEMORY OF...**

- Bruce Anderson, brother of Bill Anderson
  (Missions) Barry & Beverly Whitney
- Marcus Huff, brother of Betty Wanniger
  (General Budget) Elizabeth Flowers
- Dr. James E. Hunter
  (Youth) Forrest & JoAnn McKe
- Laurie Anne Proctor
  (UMW Scholarship) Don & Linda Smith, Elizabeth Flowers, Carl, Annette, & Alisa Rogers
- Lou Ann Sink
  (General Budget) James & Andrea Thomas
  ("Heal with Grace" ChristCare group) Linda Fournier
  (UMW Scholarship) Don & Linda Smith
- Joette Sonnenberg
  (General Budget) Don & Linda Smith
- Susan & Amons Steedly (August 6 memorial)
  (UMW Scholarship) Bill & Lana Alexander

**IN HONOR OF...**

- Susan Burgess
  (Choir Fund) Don & Linda Smith

---

**Our Gifts:** The Lord's Treasury

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 General Budget</th>
<th>Requirements to date 08/13/17</th>
<th>Receipts through 08/13/17</th>
<th>Amount needed weekly</th>
<th>Received 08/13/17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$1,369,332.00</td>
<td>852,588.00</td>
<td>832,970.32</td>
<td>25,836.00</td>
<td>28,328.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**News you can use at Grace**

**Offering Envelopes**

In order to receive a discount on offering envelopes for 2018, an order will be placed by September 29. Please let Marianne Harlan know:

- If you currently have them but do not use them and would NOT like to reorder for 2018.
- If you currently don’t have them, but would like to use them in 2018.

Please note... Do not use envelopes dated prior to 2015. If you’re using an old book of envelopes, I’ll be glad to re-issue your envelope number and get you a new book.

---

**Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible**

**START DATE:** August 29

**NEW TIME:** 9:30 - 10:30 AM

**LOCATION:** Asbury 5th grade classroom

Join us for an 8 week DVD driven study from the book of John by Jennie Allen entitled Proven: Where Christ’s Abundance Meets Our Great Need. A workbook is required for this study ($14) and can be reserved by emailing or calling Mary Chris Newell at jmcnewell@aol.com / 706-854-9544.

---

**Reserving Grace Facilities for Church held events**

I would like those utilizing Grace facilities for special events to please fill out a facility form (available from Karen in the church office) letting the office know the date, time, and facility needed at the time your request is being made for our Church calendar. These groups include Missions, Scouts, Circles, Youth, Music, Adults, SS, and CDC for any event that utilizes the Sanctuary, Wesley Center and/or kitchen, Youth Fellowship Hall and/or kitchen, etc.

Your responsibilities remain the same for acquiring keys, set-up, clean-up, and locking up after the event. Questions, or for a form, email Karen at karenb@gotgraceumc.org.

Thanks!
**Upcoming Events**

**Programs and Activities:** see inside for details
- Promotion Sunday, Aug. 20
- Blessings of the Backpacks Sunday, Aug. 20
- Ed Kilbourne Concert, Aug. 27 (5PM)
- “Grown-ups” Vacation Bible School, Aug 28-30
- WINGS Meals and Programs, All begin Sept. 6
  - GriefShare
  - Financial Peace University
  - Marriage Enrichment
  - The Gospel of Luke
  - Chrismon Repair Workshop
- NEW WINGS Drama/Bible Study, Begins Sept. 6
  - Preschool and Elementary ages
- Guitar classes, SUNDAYS, begins Sept. 10

---

**Grace United Methodist Church**
639 Georgia Avenue North Augusta, SC 29841

**Staff**
- Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr., Senior Minister
- Rev. Tyler Strange, Associate Minister
- Dr. John M. Newill, III, Honorably Location
- Dr. Joe Lusk, Pastor Care Minister
- Dr. John M. Youngner, Jr., Pastor Emeritus
- Marianne Harlan, Church Administrator
- Karen Bach Mays, Church Secretary
- Debbie Yano, Financial Secretary
- Beverly Blevins, Adult Ministries
- Susan Burgess, Choir Director/Organist
- Barbara Seaborn, Special Services Organist
- Yolanda McCabe, Director of Children and Family Ministries
- Andrew Doolittle, Director of Contemporary Worship
- Eric Hendrickson, Youth Ministry
- Shannon Rose Forde, Director of Recreation & Sports Ministries
- Jenny Lou Jones, Drama Director
- Cameron Quinn, BLAST Director
- Dana Lykins, CDC Director
- Linda Dollar, CDC Finance
- Pam Rawinson, Kitchen Manager
- Rodney Rawinson, Kitchen Cook

---

**Concert**
For ALL ages
August 27 at 5PM
“It’s 5 O’clock Somewhere”
In the Wesley Center

---

**Grace Highlights**

---

**Blessing of the Backpacks**
Sunday, August 20
During our LifeSong and 11:00 AM Worship Services
Bring your backpacks to worship as we ask God's blessings on a new school year.
For students and educators of all ages.