



# Gramling United Methodist News - September 2018

14941 Asheville Highway, PO Box 58, Gramling, SC 29348 • 864.472.2551 • gramlingumc.org

☞ Sundays: Classes, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m. ☞ Adult Choir, 7 p.m.

## Freddie the Leaf

I write this letter the day after the Bash. What a glorious day to have our church campus crawling with young people and families. We had a blessed opportunity to show this community the love of Jesus. To all who made it happen, thank you for your passion for this community. The Spirit of God was surely present throughout the day.

During my brief tenure here, we have celebrated the life and resurrection of two saints of God. Both were glorious celebrations of life and a time to remember our hope in Jesus Christ. I am often asked the question, how do you handle death and dying every day and still keep a joyful heart? Health care professionals, pastors and chaplains are well aware that they must routinely witness tremendous pain with patients under their care.

Early on in my pastoral training I watched a video entitled Freddie the Leaf that gave me a great perspective in which to view life and death. Freddie was a leaf among thousands of leaves on an oak tree overlooking a beautiful park in a large city. The story line documented Freddie's birth as a leaf, beginning as a small bud and blossoming to a full-blown leaf. Freddie was a bright glistening green leaf early in the spring. As time progressed the video would show folks walking along under Freddie's tree. The people ranged from young families with strollers full of babies to older folks on walkers and wheelchairs. Freddie grew and grew into the summer when his

color changed to a deep, dark green. By the time autumn came along, Freddie began to notice his leaf colleagues were aging and began falling to the ground that represented death and the unknown. Freddie became fearful as he talked with his leaf buddies around him. Soon, Freddie's color began to change to a bright orange. His days of youth were past, and he faced the unknown with uncertainty. One by one his buddies began dropping and fluttering to the ground. Freddie eventually followed his colleagues into the unknown with a blaze of glory.

In death, Freddie found life. For unless a kernel of wheat falls into the ground there cannot be life. Through the Risen Christ, death has no victory. Therefore, I can walk in the midst of death, knowing that Jesus conquered death, hell and grave, that we might know life and know it abundantly. I do not see any situation as hopeless because I am witnessing the very hand of God minister to those hurting around us. It is a joy to be part of the GUMC team offering healing and hope to a world full of folks that are hurting in so many ways. We are fully expecting God to move mightily in this church and community as we remain faithful to preach and teach the Good News of God's Grace and mercy to hurting souls.

I want to thank you for welcoming Cheri and me with such open arms of love and kindness. This is our home and we are excited to serve you in the following years. To God be the Glory!

*Blessed in Jesus,  
Pastor Rick*

## Wednesday Night Live!

Resuming September 5<sup>th</sup>! We are excited to have everyone back for our weekly gathering. Come enjoy fellowship and other activities. Everyone is invited!

**6 pm – Supper in the gym for all, at no charge.**

Enjoy a great menu with fruit and/or vegetables, along with a little dessert.

**6:30 Hand bell practice for all ages** . children, youth, and adults! September through December.

**Prayer at 5:30 in the parlor** . for anyone who wishes to join in this special time of group prayer for our church and community and world.

>>**Adult Choir 7 p.m.** in the main building.<<

## September Meetings (Social Hall)

Wednesday, September 5: Nurture Committee 10am

Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>: Trustees 6pm

Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>: Church Council 5pm

## Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> Epworth Work Day Offering

**Habitat** volunteers needed for Tuesdays! We're trying to supply a regular weekly group of 3 volunteers each Tuesday . all day (8:30-4) or half day (morning or afternoon OK). There will be opportunities to work Saturdays too! A desire to help is more important than skill level. Please contact Jeff Harrison if you're interested. Call/text 864-608-6306 or email jbharrison1@gmail.com .

## 2018 General Tithes & Offerings, week 34

Budget needed to date: \$190,613 (\$5606/wk);

General Offerings received to date: \$178,353

Landscaping Fund donations: \$1500

HVAC Fund donations: \$26,185

**Online giving is available at [gramlingumc.org](http://gramlingumc.org).**



**So Rev. Rick has asked to begin a monthly biography of the people of Gramling UMC.**

**Each month a new family will be featured in the Newsletter for your reading. This will give us an opportunity to learn more about each other!!!**

Our first family is: the Nussman Family+

Just a few words about myself and my family: I have been married to my husband Jeff for 31 years now. Jeff grew up in Salisbury, NC. His parents were Jim & Mary Nussman, who passed away last year. For all their lives they lived in Salisbury up until the last three years, when we talked them into moving down here to be with us. (A special thank you to everyone here at Gramling, especially the Anne Fryga Sunday School Class for being so loving to them while they were here). Growing up, Jeff worked with his father at Salisbury Lumber. He graduated from NC State University with degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Economics. After graduating, he moved to Spartanburg to work with MEMC making silicon wafers. That plant closed, and then he went to Mettler Toledo, which later moved its location. He now works as an engineer with AFL Telecommunications making all types of fiber optic cables.

We have two daughters, Hannah and Haley. Last year Hannah married Trevor Shue, who we all love.

Hannah is a Medical ICU Nurse at Spartanburg Regional and is working towards becoming a Nurse Practitioner. Trevor is a police officer/investigator for Spartanburg County and is on the SWAT team. We are all very nervous about this job, but are very proud of him.

Haley is doing well in her third year of teaching as a Middle School math teacher for Boiling Springs. She also coaches the volleyball team.

I've lived in the Spartanburg area all my life. My parents are Tom & Linda Webb. My parents built houses for a living and so we moved a lot growing up. Jeff and I met at MEMC where I also worked. I say it was love at first sight. When we first married, we built a house in Roebuck. Shortly afterward, Hannah arrived and when she was two, we moved to Lakewinds subdivision at Lake Bowen. We've lived there the last twenty seven years. I have been secretary at Gramling for about 21 years and am now on my fifth minister. They are all very different, but I love them all.

We enjoy hiking, fishing, traveling and just being with our family. We are Very Blessed!!!

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**Our revised Wedding Policies and Funeral Policy** can be found on our website on the Ministries page. We will send out a copy by email, and hard copies will be available by contacting the office.

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**Please join us for a new "Young Adult" Sunday School Class, Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am, open to anyone college age through early 30's (but anyone who wants to join us and study the Bible together is welcome). We are brainstorming our class name and first study topic, and taking suggestions on both! If you are interested in joining, know someone who may be interested in joining, or have any questions, please call or text Elizabeth Edmondson 864-580-3825. We would love to have you!**

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**Prayer, Praises, and Concerns:** Call Lin Fisher (864-420-6080) or Anne Carroll (472-9434), or email [newsletter@gramlingumc.org](mailto:newsletter@gramlingumc.org) and Lin will forward your request.

*Are any in your community suffering? They should pray. Are any celebrating? They should sing praises to God. Are any sick? They should call the elders of your church and ask them to pray. James 5:13-14a*

**Assisted Living, Nursing Home**

Jane Fisher . White Oak at North Grove  
 Joyce Evington . Wesley Ct. Assisted Living  
 Jean Johnson . Skylyn Place Assisted Living  
 Helen Burrell . Woodbridge Assisted Living  
 Carl Lane . Clemson Downs  
 Carolyn Brackett . Simpsonville Rehabilitation & Health Care  
 Barbara Runion . Golden Age, Room 110  
 Betty Jean Campbell . The Bridge, Hendersonville  
 Our deepest sympathy to the friends and family of  
 Gail Millward's mother, Betty Paige & Rebel Brackett,  
 who passed away.

**Church:** Gramling UMC

Rev. Rick Brown  
 Gramling Church Leaders  
 District Supt. Rev. Cathy Mitchell  
 SC Conference Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

**District One Schools:**

Administration, Teachers & Staff

**Military and Civil Defense** - Ed Hershberger

**Family & Friends**

Polly & Wally Harper . Henry Gramling  
 Linda Allison . JoAnn Foster  
 Julian Pruitt . Rick & Sue Pruitt  
 Judy Erwin . Will Brown  
 Kevin Hudson . Laura Gramling  
 Rebecca Davis . Cindy Riddle  
 Hugh & JoAnn Foster  
 Rev. Wayne Culp . Rebecca Culp  
 Barbara Quinn . Bonnie Gramling  
 Janne Thamis . Peggy Campbell  
 Natalie Honadel . Ed Hershberger  
 Tom Tindal . Georgianna Connell  
 Aaron Ritz. Mike & Kathryn Mitchell

Autumn Blackmon & Family . Paige Weissenberger  
 Bob Hogan & Family . Gloria Sugenor  
 Turner Hammett . Lucy Granger  
 Stan Hilly . Sandra Wingo  
 Christine & Tim Fisher . Cindy Riddle  
 Donnie Hodge  
 Andrew Tweedy . Rick Pruitt  
 Matthew Gansereit (Carlton) . Ruba Nix  
 Claircy (Gordon) Purrington . Ruba Nix  
 Donna Fowler . Paula Rhymer  
 Judy Vanadore . Sandra Wingo  
 Christina Easler . Wanda Ballenger



**Happy Birthday in September!**

- |                          |                   |                      |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 2 Mary Callie Granger    | 6 Sue Turpin      | 17 Steve Blackwell   | 23 Linde          |
| 2 Rachel Lane            | 7 Haley Nussman   | 18 Pat Hope          | Weissenberger     |
| 3 Emily Grace Cobourn    | 8 Kathy Woodham   | 20 Joy Duncan        | 23 Zane Johnson   |
| 3 Sarah Caroline Cobourn | 8 Trish Cobourn   | 21 Angela Lanford    | 26 Helen Burrell  |
| 3 Larry Prieb            | 9 Myra Covil      | 22 Mary Lou Ridgeway | 26 Sandra Stanley |
| 4 Bonnie Gramling        | 10 Logan Harrison | 22 Cynthia Woodfin   | 28 Ann Hodge      |
| 4 Tiffany Johnson        | 15 Rebecca Culp   |                      | 29 Henry Jackson  |

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**Gramling United Methodist Church**  
 PO Box 58  
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 Address Service Requested



*Pastor: Rev. Rick Brown*

*(want electronic copy only? e-mail [newsletter@gramlingumc.org](mailto:newsletter@gramlingumc.org))*