



Gramling United Methodist News - February 2019

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

☞ Sundays: Classes, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m. ☞ Wednesdays: Supper & Activities, 6 p.m.; Adult Choir, 7 p.m.



LOVE IN ACTION: February is the month of love. I can't believe it has been 7 months since we moved here, (loving SC, especially the winters). The love we found at GUMC has been so life giving and powerful. The older I get the more I realize that love is not just a feeling but is also action-packed. Twenty-seven years of pastoral ministry have taught me valuable lessons about love. Over the coming years, we will walk together through death, dying, and sickness of God's saints. All of which is part of the human experience. But God, (My favorite phrase), has the final say, death has no victory. Every born-again believer is called into helping ministries. Some days stress; fear and frustrations force compassion to the sideline. These are the times when I have learned the most about love. In the midst of difficult times when the feeling of love is especially hard, acting like I love is the best I can do. But that is the wonderfully amazing thing about love. What begins as an act becomes genuine. After constantly dealing with needy, hurting people, ministers (all of us) tend to build up a protective layer that helps them distance themselves from those that are hurting. Sometimes we are so emotionally drained, that the best we can do is mechanically go through the paces. It is at that point we've got to start acting.

You witness that attitude many times in the case of first responders. They will pull someone from a burning house without even thinking of the possible consequences to their own life. When love and compassion for others take over completely, it is expressed through actions and not just feelings. You cannot gradually and cautiously feel your way toward a loving action. Love is action. Genuine love always leaps before it looks.

This is exactly the kind of love we celebrate on Valentine's Day. Love in action is the force behind all we do as ministers of the Gospel. The ultimate valentine is Jesus' new commandment to his disciples: Show your love. Love one another. By your love, they will know more about you than by anything else you could do. Love each other as I have loved you. Jesus didn't love us with just feelings. Jesus lived a life that embodied love. He healed the sick. He fed the hungry. He comforted the confused. He taught the ignorant. He hugged the little children. The love Jesus wants us to enter into is not just to "feel" but be action-packed. An action-packed faith is the power of love in action, the power of the incarnate Christ working in our lives. In Jesus Name, we all go now to love and minister to the hurting in our midst.

*Love,
Pastor Rick*

Youth Sunday & Souper Bowl Offering

The kids are taking over on Sunday, February 3rd! Come see and hear our upcoming generation lead all parts of the morning worship. At the end of the service, they will be at each exit collecting money to help feed those in need within our community.

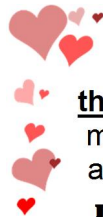


Wednesday Night Live!

- 6 pm - Supper for all at no charge!
- 6:15 - Devotion with Pastor Rick
- 6:30 - Youth meet
- 7p.m. - Adult Choir practice

February Meetings (all in the Social Hall)

- Monday, February 4th: Trustees 5pm
- Sunday, February 10th: Church Council 5pm
- Tuesday, February 12th: SPRC 7pm



"Share the Love" Craft Party

Saturday, February 9th 10 a.m. to noon in the gym. All ages are welcome to gather and make Valentine placemats for our shut-ins. Invite a friend! Enjoy yummy snacks and fellowship.

Love Luncheon - Sunday, February 10th

Come one, come all for our covered-dish meal right after the worship service. Please bring meats, sides, drinks, and desserts.



THE BLOOD CONNECTION
BLOOD DRIVE
Gramling United
Methodist Church

Sunday February 10

8:30am – **12:30**pm

ALL donors will receive a \$10 Chick-fil-A gift card!

Will Rogers Brown



I am proud and thankful to be back and a part of Gramling United Methodist Church again. I was privileged to serve as the pastor of Gramling and Campobello UMC from 1984 to 1989.

From Sumter originally, I grew up at Epworth Children's Home (11 years) due to my father deserting the family when I was just a toddler. Before I graduated from high school, I felt the call to the ministry. My acceptance into Wofford College seemed to validate my calling. During my senior year I pastored St. John's in Union and was introduced to Brenda Ivey at a countywide Methodist revival service. Upon graduation in 1964, I fulfilled my Naval Reserve obligation of two years of active duty as a hospital corpsman.

Next came seminary (Chandler School of Theology, Emory University). After my first year there, Brenda and I married. Upon graduation in 1969, I served Jonesville (4 years) where Teresa was born; Woodruff (5 years), and the birth of Beth; and Duncan Memorial in Spartanburg (6 years). After our five years here, I went on to serve Hickory Grove (5), Bethel in Chester (5), Main Street in Dillon (4) and St. Andrews in Orangeburg (4).

In 2002, we bought a house on Elberta Street in Inman and retired in 2007. Unfortunately, Brenda's health began to fail the next year and she eventually was in Magnolia Manor for three and a half years before her death in March of 2014. But it was a great day for her and for me when we came back to Gramling in January of 2012 (we had been at Inman UMC).

Teresa and her husband Brian Fowler live in Spartanburg with children Olivia (16) and Zane (10). Beth and her husband Jeff Breazeale live in Lyman with sons Zackary (18) and David (12).

It is pure joy to teach the Anne Fryga Sunday School class and to worship in a sanctuary as beautiful as anywhere. God is my heavenly Father, Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior, and the Holy Spirit is my guide. I have been blessed all my life and I praise God for his goodness to me every day.

Prayer, Praises, and Concerns: Call Lin Fisher (864-420-6080) or Anne Carroll (472-9434), or email 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

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

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
 Kelly Keesling - Peggy Campbell
 Natalie Honadel . Ed Hershberger
 Barbara Quinn . Bonnie Gramling
 Frank Martin . John Gramling II
 Aaron Ritz . Kathryn & Mike Mitchell
 Opal Broom . Bruce Woodfin
 Shannon Belangia . Sarah Harrison
 Eric & Betsy Freeman . Ed Hershberger
 Brenda Johnson
 Richard Jean . Rick Pruitt
 Turner Hammett . Lucy Granger

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
 Leon Stacey & Andrew Tweedy . Rick Pruitt
 Matthew Gansereit (Carlton) . Ruba Nix
 Claircy (Gordon) Purrington . Ruba Nix
 Donna Fowler . Paula Rhymer
 Judy Vanadore . Sandra Wingo
 Debra Slack . Jenny Bryan
 Paul Turner Family . Peggy Pruitt



Happy Birthday in February!

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|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 2 Jon Bell | 8 Hugh Foster | 13 Carson Condrey | 19 Rev. Don Hope |
| 5 Laura Gramling | 9 Kendall Griswold | 13 Diane Martin | 20 Donna Jackson |
| 6 Isabelle Nix | 10 Lucy Crowley | 15 Wanda Ballenger | 23 Troy Gramling |
| 6 Jerry Wingo | 11 Bruce Woodfin | 16 Ty Granger | 24 Anne Carroll |
| 6 Wade Herlong | 12 Linda Allison | 17 Ava Martin | 27 Cheri Brown |
| 7 Amy Beeson | 12 Tim Pope | 18 Peggy Dean | 28 Jean Johnson |

2019 General Tithes & Offerings, week 4

Budget needed to date: \$21,931 (\$5483/week);
General Offerings received to date: \$22,237

Landscaping Fund: \$1500.00

HVAC/Building Improvements Fund: \$33,150

Online Giving is available at gramlingumc.org



Response - 2019

Consider the blessings that God has entrusted to us.

How do we respond to this?

Growing God's people in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them.

Gramling United Methodist Church
 PO Box 58
 Gramling, SC 29348
 Address Service Requested



Pastor: Rev. Rick Brown

(want electronic copy only? e-mail newsletter@gramlingumc.org)