



Pleasant Green  
*United Methodist Church*

PleasantGreenUMC.org

## ***Roots & Branches***

April 2019



### ***Longing for Lent***

Perhaps you have seen the silly memes floating around on the internet: “glad it only rained twice this winter, once for 30 days and then again for 45 days.” It has rained.... and rained and rained. Maybe it’s just me but it has felt extra dark and gloomy in the winter months. While I am ready for the warm sensation of sunshine on the skin, it has also made me miss my trail running. When it’s muddy and wet, I can’t get in a good trail run (or walk for that matter!). Yes, I’ve missed the wilderness. Maybe it’s one of the reasons I love the season of Lent – a season that begins with that story of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness for 40 days and a time when we have been exploring those formative Old Testament texts, stories of a wilderness people being shaped into the people of God. I’m fond of the wilderness, but it’s also a time and place where questions get asked and we have to do some hard self-work. It’s a season that often comes with some fasting, or at least getting rid of the things that hinder us from God and neighbor.

Lent comes from an old English word meaning “spring.” Perhaps it is also the lengthening of days I am longing for – and it just so happens that not only is the earth moving toward the spring equinox but our liturgical season also invites us into a springtime of the soul. One night I was practicing a little yoga with the help of a You Tube video. The instructor caught my attention when she said, “when you start to feel resistance, lean in to that. Hold it. Breathe in to that space.” What if we also did that with our spirits and souls? To lean in to those places we feel resistance. To hold that space and breathe into it?

Each Sunday morning, we’ve been journeying through a number of scriptures that have brought us face to face with parts of our lives that perhaps we need to let go of or particular practices we could pick up in order to cultivate a life of discipleship. Which parts of your own life you could lean in to more that would help your soul bloom this spring?

Deuteronomy 26 helped us asked that question, “What does a practice of giving my first fruits to God look like in my life?”

Genesis 15 challenged us with the question of “how to keep the faith when promises are delayed? How does our faith translate into trust in God’s future?”

Isaiah 55 redirected our attention from those strivings in our lives that we *think* will quench our souls and calls us back to God, our true source of satisfaction.

Luke 15 confronts us with our longing to reconcile and be reconciled, with neighbors and with God.

Isaiah 43, on the fifth Sunday of Lent, will help us ask that question, “what new thing is God doing among us?”

Are there places you have been feeling some resistance – a call to give first fruits, or a challenge to trust in God more deeply, or to be reconciled with a neighbor? Is there something you need to let go of in order to cultivate God’s good purposes in your life? Easter is coming, but be encouraged during this wilderness time. The Lenten season invites us to lean in. Hold space. Breathe some life into those corners of our lives. If we do, we may just find that it leads to a spring time of the soul.

Shalom,

*Laura*

from the Prayer Ministry...

## Easter Prayer

Easter Morning Prayer	Easter Evening Prayer
<p>Let us pray, on this Easter morning for the life that never again shall see darkness.</p> <p>God our Father, creator of all, today is the day of Easter joy. This is the morning on which the Lord appeared to those who had begun to lose hope and opened their eyes to what the scriptures foretold: that first he must die, and then he would rise and ascend into his Father's glorious presence.</p> <p>May the risen Lord breathe on our minds and open our eyes that we may know him in the breaking of bread, and follow him in his risen life. Grant this through Christ our Lord.</p>	<p>Raise me up! Renew my life! Father of life, I see the light again! I was in darkness and had lost hope but Jesus Christ, your son, has won out over death - for me. I celebrate today, your love, the life you give me. I feel your presence as you breathe on my mind and open my heart. So many times in my life my eyes are closed but today I see the risen Lord in the breaking of the bread. Thank you for this evening of hope, thank you for such incredible love.</p>

Graciously shared through Online Ministries:

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/e-sun.html>

Another online resource for Prayer is iBelieve:

<https://www.ibelieve.com/faith/8-prayers-to-pray-each-day-of-holy-week.html>

This link leads you to a different prayer for each day leading to Easter; from Palm Sunday to Easter. There are also prayers for other needs and occasions.

***Continue to come pray with us on Wednesday Mornings and Thursday evenings through Lent. We will end on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> (Maundy Thursday), with a special service led by Pastor Laura.***

### Prayer times during Lent

Wednesdays at 11:45 am	Thursdays at 6:00 pm
March 27	March 28
April 3, 10, 17	April 4, 11

***For more information, talk with Kelsey Carter, Dylan Parson, Gloria Perry, or Gail Pruett.***

Next Prayer Ministry Meeting – Our regular Prayer Ministry meeting is  
Wednesday, April 17 at 6:30 pm. Come join us as we pray with Easter in mind.



**El Salvador  
Mission Trip  
July 20 - 27**

If you wish to join our team please contact  
Jim Perry at [perryjames@twc.com](mailto:perryjames@twc.com) or  
Kathryn Dempsey at [katjoyforall@gmail.com](mailto:katjoyforall@gmail.com). Any  
person over the age of 15 can join the El Salvador  
Mission Team.

**Please support the Mission Trip fundraiser:**

**Taco Salad Lunch on Sunday, May 5  
after the 11 o'clock service**

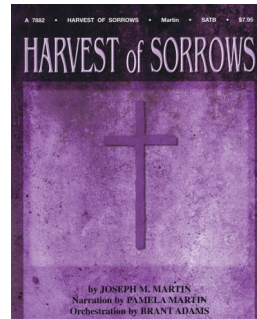
Menu: taco salad with tomatoes, black beans,  
guacamole , sour cream, desert, coffee and tea.

**\$8.00 adults / \$5.00 children under 12**

We welcome the  
newest member of  
our  
**ACOLYTE  
CROSS BEARER  
Team**  
~AVA LEAMER~



**Palm Sunday  
11:00 am Service  
Choir Cantata  
Harvest  
Of  
Sorrows**



*Harvest of Sorrows* is a work of great depth and  
power. Through music and symbols, worshippers  
are invited to participate in a season of contempla-  
tion as the mystery and power of Christ's pas-  
sion are presented. Using new music and beloved  
hymnody, it provides a work of expressive beauty  
paired with touching lyrics.

\$1360 was raised for the

2019 El Salvador Mission Trip

*The El Salvador Mission Team  
appreciates your generosity!*



**Easter Lilies**

**To purchase Easter Lilies for the  
sanctuary in honor or memory of a  
loved one, sign up in the Narthex  
by April 14th.**



~ **Pleasant Greeners Lunch** ~

**Wednesday, April 24 at Noon ~ Lunch Provided!**

**Speaker - Charlene Campbell from Beyond Expectations**

*Founded in 2009, Beyond Expectations is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, dedicated to mentoring adolescents in  
grades 6 through 12 in Orange County, NC. On two Saturdays each month, youth participate in a va-  
riety of activities to support them academically, emotionally, and socially.*

*Volunteers work closely with parents, teachers, counselors, administrators, and community partners  
to promote participants' success. Together, we are building brighter futures for  
the children of Orange County.*

## April Youth Calendar

April 13 - Bingo for a Cure (Relay for Life)

April 14 ~ YOUTH SUNDAY ~ 11am Service  
4 - 6 pm ~ Lessons

April 27 ~ 9am - 1pm ~ Church Workday

April 28 ~ 1 - 5 pm ~ OCIM Walk for Hunger  
+ ice cream at Maple View Farms

The Walk for Hunger is a great opportunity for us to love our Orange County neighbors who struggle to put food on the table.

Donations can be cash, a check made out to PGUMC with "A Walk For Hunger" on the memo line.

## PG Youth Report Card!

### Loving Thy Neighbor – So Far This School Year

- 96 letters to military personnel
- 98 flood buckets & 25 hygiene kits for flood victims
- \$716 to OCIM – Halloween Carnival
- 6500+ meals packed for Rise Against Hunger
- Adopted family with 6 kids for Christmas
- Cleaned church including windows, vacuuming, baseboards, and youth room
- Souper Bowl Sunday – \$660 for OCIM
- 30 Hour Famine - \$5300 to World Vision to fight hunger
- Spreading mulch in the church playground



Thanks for making our playground look great!



The Youth raised over \$5300 to feed the hungry in our world!



**SUPPORT OUR YOUTH:** OCIM Walk for Hunger ~ April 28 ~ see a youth participant to donate.

American Cancer Society Relay For Life ~ May 18 ~ To Donate: [main.acsevents.org/goto/ryanmont](http://main.acsevents.org/goto/ryanmont)

## Mark your April Calendar!

Eleanor Walker Circle  
7:00 pm – April 1st



### Common Thread A Ministry to Comfort the Dying



"Common Thread" provides happy, colorful butterfly pillowcases to those dying in hospice, nursing homes and in their own homes. All are welcome to join us **Saturday, April 6** at 9:30am.



**6 - 8pm on Monday, April 8**  
**Administrative Council Meeting**

Church  
Cleanup



EVERYONE'S HELP IS  
NEEDED!

Saturday, April 13

8:00 AM



Relay for Life Fundraiser  
Cedar Grove Ruritan Club

**BINGO for a  
CURE**



**April 13**  
**6:00 pm**



**Circle of Faith**  
**April 16 ~ meets at Gatewood**  
**6:30 pm**



Come enjoy the music of our  
**PRAISE BAND**  
last Sunday of each month!

### FOOD FOR ALL

This ministry for the Homeless & Working Poor of Orange County Needs YOU!  
*Groups within the church are encouraged to sponsor a FOOD FOR ALL night once a year.*



**April 25—World Malaria Day**  
is an international observance  
dedicated to malaria awareness.

Since 2010, the people of The United Methodist Church through its **Imagine No Malaria** initiative have focused on reducing malaria deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the process, the denomination has learned that "our God is able, more than able to do more than we can ask or imagine."

Together, we have:

- **Provided more than 4 million life-saving bed nets** *Insecticide-treated bed nets remains the most effective way to prevent malaria. Since The United Methodist Church began its effort, which has included bed net distributions, global mortality rates have fallen by an estimated 60 percent.*
- **Renovated 61 healthcare facilities**
- **Treated more than 2.7 million people with malaria**
- **Protected more than 175,000 structures with indoor residual spraying**
- **Trained thousands of community health workers and volunteers**

**You can help reduce Malaria with you donations.**  
**(write checks to PGUMC with Malaria memo)**

### Quilting with Kelsey

April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm



I think patchwork can be a beautiful metaphor for what God does with each of us; taking us as the remnants that we are and stitching us together for the purpose of creating something warm, beautiful, and new. The practice of hand quilting has become a spiritual rhythm for me and I'd love to spend some time stitching together. I'll briefly talk about my inspiration for this project and ask that you please join in and help put some stitches in the Lenten quilt. Thread, needles, and scissors will be provided and no experience necessary! Feel free to bring a snack to share, I'll bring punch!



**Join Pastor Laura for Wednesday Bible Study at 10:30!**

**Thanks to ALL who helped with the  
UMW Brunswick Stew &  
Chicken Dumplings Dinner!**



**\$2,686 was  
raised to  
fund  
UMW  
Missions!!**



**It  
takes  
everyone!**



**Mark Your Summer Calendar!**



**Vacation Bible School**

**July 8 — 12  
9:00 am — 12:30 pm**

**TO MARS and BEYOND**



**PGUMC SUMMER CAMP**

**June 24 - July 26**

**(Closed July 4th week)**

**Rising 1st graders - Rising 6th graders  
~ 7:30 am - 5:45 pm ~**



**Registration forms are in the Narthex  
or on the church website.**



**United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION**

**UMW General Meeting**

**12 noon**

**Sunday April 14th**

**Hosted by Eleanor Walker Circle**

**The Eleanor Walker Circle**

**packed 56 goodie bags for  
Central Elementary teachers!**



**Camp Chestnut Ridge Open House**

**Sunday, April 14 ~ 1 - 5 pm**

**Join us for a FREE afternoon of fun for families!**

***Come get a taste of what camp is all about!***

Activities include: Canoes, Zipline, Pony Rides,  
Campfire and S'mores, Self guided tour of camp,  
Archery, Meet the Director, Hayride to the Farm  
***Food will be available for purchase.***



Thank you to my PGUMC family for your prayers, concern, cards, and the provision of meals following my recent knee replacement surgery and recovery. We serve a merciful God who surrounds us with a loving and generous family of believers! Blessings to all, *Jim Perry*

*Dear Pleasant Green,*

Thank you so much for sharing the gift of your space with us. We marveled at the beauty of your buildings and the gift it was to know that Methodists had been worshipping and planning here for almost 200 years. That's a pretty cool reminder for folks who can smell fresh paint every Sunday when we gather. Thanks you for being so hospitable. It is a gift to be connected to you.

With gratitude,

*Laura Fine Ledford & the people of All Saints' UMC*



**Pleasant Green welcomed Jeremy Whitford into membership of our church family on February 17.**

### Pew Registration Pads

If you have attended the 11:00 worship service lately, you have undoubtedly heard Sandy Quinn encourage you to sign the registration pad found at the end of the pew, pass it along to the next person, and then pass it back to its original spot at the end of the pew. Have you ever wondered why you are being asked to do this?

The information provided is used in several ways. First, this is a way in which visitors can identify themselves and provide their contact information. When someone visits the 11:00 service and signs the pad, a church member who lives nearby them is asked to follow up with them through a phone call, email, or personal visit. They are welcomed to the church and any questions they have are answered. Sometimes they are also given a small gift from the church. This can be the start of a meaningful relationship as that visitor tries to find his/her "place" within our church family.

When existing church members and friends sign the registration pad, it gives them a way to alert the church office to any changes in their address, phone number, or email address. In addition, the Membership Committee uses the registration pads to keep track of church attendance. Members of this committee occasionally contact people who have not been in worship for a few months to let them know they are missed.

Because attendance at the 8:30 worship service is lighter, registration pads are not used, but a record is still kept of who has attended the service, and who may have visited.

***The next time you are in the 11:00 worship service, please do sign the registration pad!***

### ROLLING DOUGH CAN BE FUN!





Pleasant Green United Methodist Church  
 3005 Pleasant Green Road  
 Durham, NC 27705  
 (919) 383-5764

**Non-Profit Org.**  
**US POSTAGE PAID**  
**Durham, NC 27705**  
**Permit No. 5**

Address Service Requested

**Website:** [PleasantGreenUMC.org](http://PleasantGreenUMC.org)

**Pastor - Rev. Laura Thompson (919) 383-2339**

[lthompson@nccumc.org](mailto:lthompson@nccumc.org)

**Interim Director of Youth Ministry-Richard Cassidy**

[richard.l.cassidy@gsk.com](mailto:richard.l.cassidy@gsk.com)



Please recycle this newsletter.



**Come Worship!**  
**Holy Week**

**April 14**



***Palm Sunday***

11:00 am Service only

*Harvest of Sorrows* Choir Cantata

**April 18 at PGUMC**

***Maundy Thursday***

7:00 pm—Communion Service

Commemorating the Last Supper



**April 19 at McMannen UMC**

***Good Friday Service***

7:00 pm— Remembering

the passion and death of Christ



**April 21**



***Easter Sunday***

6:30 am—Sunrise Service

*at the cross in the graveyard followed  
 by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall*

8:30 am Service

9:30 am—Food & Fellowship

10am—Sunday School



**10:30am**  
**Easter Egg Hunt**

11:00 am Service

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\***

**Pine Straw Fundraiser for this year is cancelled, due to the wet weather the usual North Carolina long leaf pine needle straw is not available.**

***Raise an Eco-Palm branch Palm Sunday at Pleasant Green to support this UMCOR social and environmental justice project.***



US palm sales total more than \$4.5 million every year. Through the Eco-Palm Project, harvesters in Guatemala and Mexico are receiving fair wages for their labor. The work empowers women by providing jobs, increased income to help send their children to school, and opportunities for leadership positions. Palm harvesters also incorporate environmentally sound harvesting techniques for a better ecosystem.

**Mark your calendars!**

**"Worship at the Eno" on May 19th**

***10:30 am followed by a cookout!***



**Summer Worship Schedule**

*Please note - schedule may change throughout the summer.*

**Memorial Day - Labor Day**

**(May 26 - Sept. 1)**

**9:15 - Gathering and Breakfast**

**9:30 - Sunday School**

**10:30 - Worship in the Sanctuary**