



Pleasant Green
United Methodist Church

PleasantGreenUMC.org

Roots & Branches

April 2020



Dear Pleasant Green,

What strange days we are living. March was certainly one for the books and for the first time ever in our lives, an April calendar has completely been erased, cancelled, cleared. And yet some things continue: Birthdays, Anniversaries, Easter, to name a few. One thing I have been doing during this strange season is to keep a document on my computer called "Inspiration during Isolation." The latest thing I added to this document was a verse from an old familiar hymn. In 1872, Elizabeth Clephane penned the words to the hymn we oftentimes will sing during Lent and Holy Week:

*Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.*

As we continue to move through the living of these days, I'm holding tightly the truth of acknowledging where our refuge, safety and protection really lie. I'm holding deeply those who yearn for rest, home, relief from the burdens of the day, whether they are burdens of the body, the mind, or the spirit.

I miss you all. I am praying for you. And I offer this prayer for us all:

To those of you who are on the front lines of healthcare and emergency response, and to those in other lines of work deemed essential, thank you. We are praying for your safety and giving thanks for your dedication and courage.

To those of you at home, adjusting to quieter or lonelier days, you are not alone. We are praying for you and hope that you would be aware of a sense of community around you. Above all, that you would know you are held gently in God's hand.

To those of you working from home, or suddenly homeschooling, and seeking to find some balance and normalcy, we are praying for you, too. We pray for patience and endurance, for reliable technology, and for moments of unexpected joy.

To those of you now unemployed or facing instability, we are here for you. We are praying for your strength and perseverance, and that you might be open to receiving help where and when we (and others) can offer it.

To those of you missing their friends at school, a final year of high school or college, we are praying for you. We celebrate who you are and acknowledge that you are feeling sadness for missing end of year celebrations. May God grant you wisdom in this season and grace for each and every day.

To those of you desperate for something to do and somewhere to go, we are praying for you. We are praying for God's peace to overcome you and a sense of deep calm to be with your spirit. Even when it is difficult, we are praying with gratitude for our collective willingness to stay at home when it is tempting to leave.

To all of you, we are praying for you. These are strange, confusing, and challenging days, but the Church remains the Church. God is still God. And we are still held, loved, and given the gift of life in Christ. And by the grace of God, these are the things that will never change. Thanks be to God!

With much grief and hope in my heart,

Pastor Laura

Staying Connected During COVID-19:

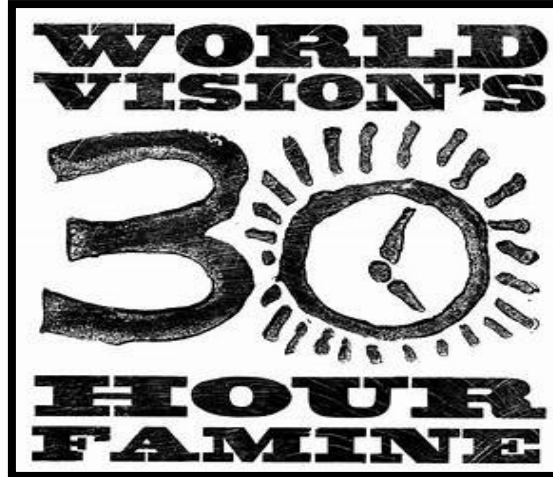
- Worship on Sundays at 9, 11, or 5pm with the Orange Cooperative Parish pastors leading. Each week, a link is sent out via email.
- ZOOM Youth group meetings on Sunday evenings led by Michael Larbi
- Several Sunday school classes are meeting via Zoom on Sundays – contact your Sunday school teacher for information!
- Mondays: an informal “catch-up” to chat and check-in with church members
- Wednesdays at 10:30am: a book group/discussion/Bible study via Zoom
- Handwritten letters, phone calls, and emails
- The Prayer Team is continuing to pray diligently for those on our prayer list and to “meet” monthly to update each other
- Weekly meditations and music posted on our YouTube channel and Facebook page
- Weekly emails with announcements and helpful information

Praise Band



Thank you to our Praise Band!

Al Edens, John DuLaney, Lisa McCurdy, Janice Nicholson, Wayne Leonard, Perry Wright, Camilla Davis, TC Adams, Ronnie Brown and Dave Cook.



The Youth raised \$585 during the 30 Hour Famine and it looks like they had a great time!



Thanks to all who helped with the UMW
Chicken and Dumplings Dinner!
We raised \$3225 for missions!



The Coronavirus, Abundance, Hope, and Easter



Matthew 10:31 – Don't be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

Luke 12: 32 – Don't be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights in giving you the Kingdom.

This month, since COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is still so much in the news, with many related reports of anxiety and fear among us, let us focus on how God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are the antidote to fear and anxiety. In the 8:30 am service several weeks ago, to launch us into Lent, Janice shared the advice she had heard, "Fast from Fear and Feast on Hope (See box insert for full reference)." And, in the Clyde Walker class, while re-studying John Ortberg's, *If you Want to Walk on Water, You Need to Get Out of the Boat*, we learned that there are 366 scripture verses related to fear. Many verses are related to fear of the Lord (that is a good thing!) and others are telling us not to be afraid of general life conditions. That includes not being afraid, worried, or anxious about the Coronavirus and its ramifications.

You may be worried about becoming very ill from the virus, even dying, or loved ones dying, not being able to go to work, get paid, pay bills, take care of your children or aging parents, purchase food and medicines, or many other things, such as isolation and disruption in your usual routines. While all of this may seem overwhelming, this is where Easter comes in!

Jesus, through the Grace of Our Father, did not stay dead. After his three days in the tomb, Jesus came back to life, being the symbol of everlasting life and hope. Jesus is always with us. He is always willing to listen to our fears. He always answers, based on His perfect timing, wisdom, and planning. He wants the best for us. He, through Our Father, has a plan for us. He and we serve a God of Abundance: abundant hope, peace, calm, direction, resources, problems resolved. God has enough to go around, everyone getting exactly what they need.

Let us Feast on this Hope of Jesus this season, soaking in the abundance of his peace and calm by praying...

Dear God of Abundant Peace and Calm, thank you for listening to our prayers. Thank you for giving us your Son, Jesus, who listens and answers when we cry out to Him in despair and worry. Resurrected Jesus, we lay at Your feet all our fears, worries, and anxieties, all our tensions and pre-occupations with problems. We ask that you take them from us. We freely release these negative thoughts and feelings to you. Fill us with your peace and calm. Help us understand your plans for us; and, trust that through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will draw closer to you and trust you even more. Help us to know that even if we do not understand your plans or outcomes, you are with us to provide comfort. Help us rely on your will and not ours, knowing that we are not alone in whatever situations we are facing. We pray these things in Your Name and through the Power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**This is the full reference to the encouragement Janice shared with us. She substituted hope for faith; both are appropriate. This advice was written by Arthur Lichtenberger, a Bishop of the Episcopal Church who died in 1968. Here's the full list:

Fast from criticism,	and feast on praise	Fast from jealousy,	and feast on humility
Fast from self-pity,	and feast on joy	Fast from pride,	and feast on love
Fast from ill temper,	and feast on peace	Fast from selfishness,	and feast on service
Fast from resentment,	and feast on contentment	Fast from fear,	and feast on faith

The Prayer Ministry meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm. If North Carolina and our United Methodist Church are still in a state of emergency due to COVID-19, we will meet by free conference call on April 15th. Look for more information through the PGUMC emailed weekly news as we get closer to that date. You may also contact Gail at pruettg@frontier.com. Please join us! We would love to have you. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 15 at 6:30 pm.

To my church family,
I give thanks for each of you, from my heart! It's been so uplifting, the prayers, cards, texts, calls, during this time of surgery and rehab. I am home, doing quite well, planning to be among you ummm... well, before tomatoes are ripe in Orange Co.
Blessings to you all. Rick Riley

Pleasant Green Family,
I wish to extend my sincere appreciation for each expression of kindness and caring in the recent passing of my sister Mary Pope. The beautiful cards have already become keepsakes! And, I'll always treasure the phone calls and emails. Thanks to everyone for these very special remembrances.
Nell Andrews

From Sandy Quinn...

Pleasant Green Community Center News continued from March

The bottom five rows of German siding (to match the original siding) was replaced and painted. The front door glass has been replaced twice—and the door opens easily now. The water heater has been replaced, there have been water line improvements to ensure that water drains out completely and does not freeze up in cold weather, and new counter tops were installed not long ago.

An ongoing issue at the building is squirrel damage. Squirrels continue to harass and chew whatever they can sink their teeth into. A new chimney cap was installed to help keep them out, but there have been numerous other repairs to walls and wiring due to squirrel vandalism. It is ongoing, because they continue to find news ways to get in and create problems.

Some of these improvements are not visible, but we do benefit from them each time we, or anyone who rents the building, uses it. There have been and are many other smaller facility repairs and improvements, as must be done to any building frequently rented to the public. While some repairs are completed by contractors, most small repairs are completed by Phil Ray and/or Tim Fowler. A building of this age has ongoing maintenance needs—it is a work in progress!

The Pleasant Green Community Center is maintained by a small group of volunteers, and there is a list of “what to do” when the building is rented. Most people are good about following the guidelines, cleaning up, and leaving the building the same way it was when they arrived. If they do not, a small group of people have to inspect and clean up right away. The building is rented almost every weekend, so there is little time to wait and clean up later. While a deposit is required to reserve the building, some renters will forfeit their deposit because they do not want to clean up. This leaves a big cleanup job that must be completed immediately, before the renter for the next day arrives to use the building. This cleanup job usually falls to Phil and Betty Ray.

You might wonder—“how does the Community Center operate”?

- (1) If you are interested in renting the building, you can review available dates on the PGCC website, www.pleasantgreencommunitycenter.com, which also provides some history and other information. You can call one of the two rental agents to inquire about reserving a date: Phil Ray, 919-493-1780, or Tim Fowler, 919-383-7728.
- (2) The current officers of Pleasant Green Community Center are Phil Ray, President, Larry Flannery, Vice-President, and Sandy Quinn, Treasurer. Mike Quinn is the website administrator. Phil and Sandy meet on a monthly basis to discuss financial data, and Larry and Tim provide input via phone or email. All expenses and income are documented and approved by the officers, with receipts and invoices maintained by the treasurer, who is responsible for all deposits and payments pertaining to the Pleasant Green Community Center. We, the officers of Pleasant Green Community Center, serve as volunteers to help maintain this community treasure. We hope you will join us in preserving and celebrating the life we share in this building.

During 1942 through 1945, Camp Butner's primary mission was to train combat troops for deployment and redeployment to the European and Pacific theaters. The Camp contained rifle & artillery ranges, a prisoner of war compound, and barracks with support services for approximately 40,000 troops.

Beginning on Thanksgiving Day 1948, a large mess hall was disassembled at Camp Butner by adults and youth of Pleasant Green Church, transported to where it now sits and reassembled piece by piece.



Common Thread

A Ministry to Comfort the Dying

All are welcome to come help - cut, pin, iron or sew!





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 Please recycle this newsletter. 

The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide is provided free of charge to the Pleasant Green congregation by the United Methodist Women. *You may pick up a copy in the Narthex.*

Pleasant Green 2020 Summer Camp
 Registration forms on church website

Week #1: June 22 - 26 **VBS** 9:00 - 12:30
 ~ Closed June 29 - July 3 ~

Week #2: July 6 - 10

Week #3: July 13 - 17
 at PGUMC 


Week #4: July 20 - 24



Roots & Branches
 * NEWSLETTER NEWS *
In a continued effort to be good stewards of our resources and finances, we want to reduce the number of paper newsletter mailings. If you would like to help with this please contact the church office with your email.

Vacation Bible School
 June 22 - 26 ~ 9:00 - 12:30

Quest for the King's Armor,
 invites children to be strong
 in the Lord



Registration site for children and volunteers:
<https://2020.cokesburyvbs.com/npcgumc>



FMF is working together to help provide families with children a stable, safe and loving environment while they are in the temporary crisis of homelessness.



Pleasant Greeners learned about Families Moving Forward in Durham on Ash Wednesday, February 26th.

WAYS TO GIVE AT PLEASANT GREEN UMC

We know and believe that part of being a follower of Christ is also about being generous with our money. We also recognize that the world is changing, the church is changing, and giving trends are changing with new generations. Listed below you will find three ways you may give to Pleasant Green UMC: the traditional gifts we receive in the offering plate on Sundays, online, or through text message. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

	ONLINE www.pleasantgreenumc.org		MOBILE Text: "PLEASANTGREEN" To: 77977		ENVELOPE Check: mail or slip under the office door
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