



The potted plant pictured on this page continues to capture my attention. In fact, it's why I haven't torn off the dead leaves yet or cleaned it up or repotted it or moved it to a better spot in the house. Last fall, I moved this plant from the outside to the inside with all the others

so that it would survive the winter. That's what we do. Except this particular plant found it's home high up on a bookshelf – almost out of sight, which explains the neglect it endured all winter. Truth be told, I forgot to water it. For months. So it died. But another plant has emerged in the pot and now I have a very real visual reminder: life is stubborn.

As I scribble these words onto a page, it is the first day of Spring. With the turn of the seasons, I find myself accepting the invitation to once again gaze upon a dead potted plant and finding there a tiny, tender shamrock stem insisting on blooming. Personally, I am more drawn to the hope and

possibility of spring than I am the exuberance and abundance of summer. Spring brings with it small beginnings. Little signs of hope. New growth that always starts small. Parker Palmer writes that, “spring teaches me to look more closely within myself and trust the green tendrils of possibility: the intuitive hunch that may morph into a larger insight, the glance or touch that may start to thaw a frozen relationship, the stranger's act of kindness that makes the world seem like home again.”

We have endured the long slog through Lent and as the days grow longer and the light lingers, so does our hope. For this is the season when we will gather around the Table and break bread with friends on Maundy Thursday, remember the darkness of Good Friday, and celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday. As it turns out, life is stubborn. So much so that death could not conquer it. Even when that promise does not feel as profuse as we'd like, may our eyes be drawn to those silly potted plants almost out of sight. We are Easter people, perhaps not quite in full bloom, but trusting the tender shoots of new growth all around – and within- us. Yes, life is stubborn. Thanks be to a resurrecting God!

Pastor Laura

Holy Week 2023

at Pleasant Green



**Palm/Passion
Sunday**

April 2
10:30 am



Maundy Thursday

April 6
6:30 pm
Fellowship Hall



Good Friday

April 7
7:00 pm
Old Chapel



Easter Sunday

April 9
6:30 am Sunrise
10:30 am Worship

SUNDAYS

- Worship Service**
10:30 am, In Person or [LIVE STREAM](#)
- Children's Church**
During Worship, Old Sanctuary
- Clyde Walker Sunday School**
9:15 am, The Parlor or [ZOOM](#)
- Hearts & Hands Sunday School**
9:30 am, Seekers room #217

FINANCIAL UPDATE

2023 Unified Budget	350,139.70
YTD Total Income to Operating Fund	44,502.92
TTD Operating Expenses	71,588.73
YTD Operating Fund Balance	-27,085.81
2022 Operating Fund Balance Forward	14,533.53
2023 Current Actual Operating Fund Balance	-12,552.28
Current Building Mortgage Balance	124,904.81

EASTER

- Palm Sunday**
10:30 am Worship & Cantata
Colors of Grace: Lessons for Lent
3-5 pm Eggstravangaza
Join us for a afternoon of egg hunting, egg crafting and egg-cellent fun! Bring your Easter basket!
- Maundy Thursday Meal**
April 6th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall
Maundy Thursday is the day we remember the last time Jesus ate with friends and his mandate to "love one another." Join us for a covered dish meal, scripture reading, prayer, fellowship, and ancient tradition.
- Good Friday Service**
April 7th at 7 pm in the Chapel
A Service of Tenebrae, or "Shadows," is based on a 12th Century late night/early morning service and is an extended meditation on the passion of Christ. On this day, we commemorate Jesus' arrest, his trial, crucifixion and suffering, death, and burial.
- Holy Saturday**
The is the day between the crucifixion and the resurrection, often called "the great Silence," when the silence of the tomb and deep grief settles in. There are no scheduled services on this day, though you may want to observe it with a prayer or a time of silence in your own home or on the church grounds.
- Easter Sunday, April 9th**
6:30 am Sunrise Service outside
Followed by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
10:30 am Worship in the Sanctuary

CHICKEN AND DUMPLINGS DINNER
We raised just over \$3,200! Thank you to everyone that helped!



SALVADORAN MISSION PROJECT

This year, as we have in years past, Pleasant Green plans to return and share with our friends at Salvadoran Mission Projects in Ahuachapan, El Salvador. We have our dates set. They are July 18-25.

El Salvador is a place of dichotomy. They are a proud, strong and hard working people. But there are deep divides between the wealthy and the poor. The areas where we focus our ministry are with some of the poorest of the poor, many of whom "survive" on \$2 a day. Over the years, we have helped to build homes, churches and schools. We have fed countless families and taught hundreds of children of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our partnership runs deep through our connection with these loving folk. And we've also benefitted from their witness to us as we share the laughter, sweat and love that transcends language and cultures.

Would you like to be a part of this powerful and life changing outreach? If so, please contact Brian Wingo at 919-949-4388.

COMMON THREAD MINISTRY

On March 9, Kathy DuLaney and Gail Stanley delivered 30 pillowcases and 4 teddy bears to Liberty Home Care and Hospice Services in Durham.

Common Thread Ministry will be meeting again on April 15th at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.



PALM / PASSION SUNDAY
seeking: Where are you headed?
Matthew 21:1-11
Imagine you are in Jerusalem when Jesus enters on a donkey. Within the chaos and commotion of that scene, where are you and which way will you go? Will you follow Jesus all the way to the cross? Jesus' willing surrender to his arrest should always catch us off-guard. As dismayed as the disciples, we ask, "Jesus, are you really headed this way, straight to your death?" Many of our weekly questions throughout the season so far have helped us prepare spiritually for Holy Week. Now we examine if our beliefs have changed our behaviors. Has your path changed? In the midst of opposing forces, which way will you go?

MAUNDY THURSDAY
seeking: Will you wash my feet?
John 13:1-17, 31b-35
In his final night with his friends and followers, Jesus shows the fullness of his love by removing his robe, kneeling, and washing the disciples' feet. As he makes his way around the room, Jesus comes to Simon Peter who protests, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Like Peter, we may also question if God loves us and will care for us, even at the brink of death. In these final hours of accompanying Jesus to his grave, can we seek a posture of trust? Can we allow ourselves to be embraced and loved—by our neighbor and by God?

GOOD FRIDAY
seeking: Why have you forsaken me?
Matthew 27:27-50
Of all the questions in our series, this one remains the most unanswerable. Jesus' final lament gives voice to all those who have been forsaken—those who suffer injustice, those who are abandoned, those who are unjustly convicted. Instead of trying to answer this question with logic or theology, we are invited to live it, to sit with it. Sitting with this unsettling question unearths and unveils many more questions: What do we do in the face of unimaginable suffering? Can we sit in the silence of death and trust that God is there? Will we be in solidarity with those who suffer and grieve?

EASTER SUNDAY
seeking: Who are you looking for?
John 20:1-18
Jesus, mysteriously appearing to Mary as the gardener, asks her: "Why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" In the haze of grief, Mary can only see what is right before her—or in this case, what is not before her. It is only when Jesus calls her by name that the veil is lifted and she beholds the resurrected Christ. On this Easter morning, who—or what—are you looking for? Why have you come to the tomb? What kind of Jesus are you looking for? What veils need to be lifted so we can recognize God's resurrection wherever it occurs?



Pleasant Green

United Methodist Church

3005 Pleasant Green Road
Durham, NC 27705

PleasantGreenUMC.org
pgumc@ncrrbiz.com
919.383.5764

Pastor

Rev. Laura Thompson
lthompson@nccumc.org

Director of Family Ministries

Emily Robbian
emily.robbian@duke.edu

Duke Intern

Trevor Warren
trevor.warren@duke.edu

WAYS TO GIVE

We know and believe that part of being a follower of Christ is 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. Thank you for your generosity!

Online www.PleasantGreenUMC.org

Smartphone Text "PleasantGreen" To: 77977

Envelope Mail or slip under office door

Pleasant Green United Methodist Church
2023 SUMMER CAMP
 3005 Pleasant Green Road
 Durham, NC 27705
 919-383-5764

Online Registration: <https://bit.ly/PGsummercamp>
 Email: pleasantgreenafterschool@gmail.com
 Church Website: www.pleasantgreenumc.org

Inviting rising 1st - 6th graders
to 4 weeks of Summer Fun!
 June 19-July 21
 7:30 a.m - 5:45 p.m.
 -Closed Week of July 4th-

Arts & Crafts
 FIELD TRIPS
 SUMMER CAMP
 SWIMMING
 FUN & GAMES
 ICE CREAM

Week 1: June 19-23
Vacation Bible School

HERO HOTLINE
 Called Together to Serve God!

9:00am-12:30pm
 Lunch on Friday!

If only attending VBS (not camp), register at <https://bit.ly/pgvbs23>

Week 2: June 26-30

Chestnut Ridge
TRAVELING DAY CAMP

Traveling Day Camp at Pleasant Green
 with the staff of Camp Chestnut Ridge

Lunch provided all week!

Week 3:
JULY 10-14

Pleasant Green's
 Got Talent
PGGT
 Music, Theatre, Arts & Crafts

Camp Talent Show 7/13/23 @ 5:00pm

Week 4:
JULY 17-21

Let's Get
Cooking

- © Kitchen safety
- © Cooking skills
- © Following recipes
- © Restaurant trips

Camp Cookbook