

ROOTS & BRANCHES

AUGUST 2021

PleasantGreenUMC.org

Once upon a time,

God's presence moved and lived among the people in a tent – a “tent of meeting,” as the Bible calls it. A fancier name is “Tabernacle.” It was God's way of dwelling among a people who were on the move. This “tent” was significant for several reasons: 1) God was really content to live here so much so that God was reluctant when King David proposed to build God a more permanent dwelling place in the form of a Temple (so David didn't, but his son, Solomon, did); 2) This “tent” was really the Israelites' first great project together – and, they built it right after their wilderness journey. Finally, it was really the moment that unified the people and stopped their complaining.

If you remember, most of Exodus recounts the Israelites journeying through the desert. The wilderness. Time and time again they raise concerns to the leader Moses, wondering why he brought them out of Egypt to die, even going so far as to say that it would have been better to stay in Egypt as slaves than die in the desert (Exodus 14). Even after they cross the sea, the complaints continue. Lack of water. Then the water was bitter. Then there was no food. So God sends manna, then they complain about that.

This goes on and on until Exodus 25 when God gives them a simple command: “have them build an ark” (the tent). In other words, let them build something together. This is a profound moment that really changes the tides. Shifts the energy. Encourages the people. Up until now, the people of God had been in a state of passive recipients. For so long, during slavery and even in the wilderness journey, the Israelites were in a state of dependency. Now, for the first time ever, God is inviting them into a new way of being. God is now, for the first time, inviting the people to be co-creators, builders, and partners with God. The ark of the Covenant was their first great project together. This tent would be a new way that God could dwell more fully among the people.

In so many ways, it feels like we are reemerging out of a season of wilderness. The pandemic was disorienting, lonely, threatening, uncertain. Thankfully, we are getting back to ways of life that feel a little more familiar: kids are at school again, we are worshipping in our sanctuary, and we can eat inside of restaurants, to name a few. This wilderness experience does invite us to ask that question: who will we be because of it? And how will we re-build on the other side? Are we called to create new ways of inviting God's presence into our lives? God knew that if the people were truly going to become who God was calling them to be, they needed to become co-creators, builders, partners, a team. This remains true for us today.

We are re-gathering as a community and at the same time are experiencing great transition in our life together with the departure of two staff members who have been attending to music, children, and youth ministry. Maybe we aren't quite out of the wilderness just yet! Therefore, we are going to have a couple of afternoons in August set aside for intentional times to think, dream, pray, talk, listen and try to discern how we are being called to be co-creators coming out of our own wilderness. Is God inviting us “to build” something new together? This question will require deep listening and attunement to God's spirit.

You're invited. Sunday, August 15 and 22. I'll share more details as the time gets closer – But for now, if you are a professing member of Pleasant Green UMC – and even if you're not – I hope you'll join the conversation. God does not call us to be passive recipients. As the message translates it, “this resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life.” It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike “What's next?” Join us in August as we seek to answer that question.

Pastor Laura

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
IN OUR SANCTUARY
EACH SUNDAY AT 10:30AM!

Financial Update

2021 Unified Budget	327,037.42
YTD Total Income to Operating Fund	144,502.18
YTD Operating Expenses	165,449.46
YTD Operating Fund Balance	-20,947.28
2020 Operating Fund Balance Forward	18,065.45
2021 Current Actual Operating Fund Balance	2,881.83
Current Building Mortgage Balance	218,340.96

We'll miss you, Keli!



THANK YOU

Thank you to the "friend" who has sent us sweet handmade cards this past year. They are so uplifting and they remind us daily how grateful we are that we are part of the Pleasant Green UMC community.
Kathy and John DuLaney

Dear Circle of Faith and PGUMC, I have been overwhelmed with cards, food and visits. I have deeply appreciated each and everyone one of you that has reached out. I feel your love and prayers which means so much to me.
With love,
Sheila Cook

To my Pleasant Green Church family, I would like to thank you all for the kind thoughts, words of encouragement, the many cards, all the good food, and most important of all, the prayers that were lifted up during Wanda's illness and her passing. Wanda and I were, and I still am truly blessed to be a part of such a loving, caring, and faithful group of people here at Pleasant Green.
God bless and I love you all.
Al Edens

Volunteers Needed!

PGUMC Afterschool is preparing for a new school year. We are looking for volunteers to be a part of our spectacular homework / reading time which is Monday-Thursday, 4:45 – 5:15pm. You do not have to be a teacher, just someone wanting to help our precious kids. This would mean so much to our Afterschoolers and their parents. If you are interested, please contact Susan Adams at susan_adams2@hotmail to work with your schedule.

Blessings, Susan & JoAnna

We're Hiring!

Pleasant Green is seeking a part-time (10-15 hrs/wk) Music Director. The Director of Music will lead and facilitate the music ministry of the church. Pleasant Green is blessed to have talented and active musicians in the congregation, a Rogers Organ and a Yamaha grand piano in the sanctuary, and a well-stocked choir room.

Primary responsibilities:

- Preparing and leading music for Sunday morning worship; conducting weekly choir rehearsals; planning and implementing music for the church year in conjunction with pastor and staff; coordinating with other music groups within the congregation; and overseeing the vision and direction of the music ministries of the church.

- Skill sets include a level of proficiency in playing piano and organ; ability to effectively direct and accompany the choir; interpersonal relationship skills; willingness to assume other tasks as required.

For further information or to apply, please send a resume and cover letter to Susan Adams at susan_adams2@hotmail.com.



A fun week with Chestnut Ridge Traveling Camp at PGUMC!

Thanks to the staff from Camp Chestnut Ridge, Pastor Laura, Kory Tomlinson, Keli Pennington, Wendy Anderson and our youth volunteers (all former Summer Campers) - Lily Frank, Ellie Job & Sean Freeman.



Summer Campers: Daisy LaBarre, Abbie Bowlin, Michaela Olberding, Elizabeth Johnson, Henry Shout, Emily Johnson, Caedmon Bowlin, Rylan West, Ta'nya Parker, Carson Perry & Alyssa Caldwell.

Family fun night with the Durham Bulls!



Pleasant Green Youth Summer Fun!



VBS Youth Volunteers bowling



Ice Cream at Maple View Farm with summer camp volunteers

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Service 10:30am Kayleigh Freeman McCoy	2 Sydney Baker	3 Read & Seed Patch 6:30pm Brad Morris Barbara Rodgers Michelle Baker	4 Bible Study 10:30am Joe Berini	5 Shayne Overaker Gary Burke	6 JohnRichard Ray	7 Nola King Daisy LaBarre Al Edens
8 Worship Service 10:30am Margaret Latta	9 Administrative Council 7pm Eleanor Walker Circle 7pm Bill Weaver Parker Bourlon Jonathan Whitford	10 Neo Best Brock Snowden	11 Davis Leonard Brett Barbee	12 Meredith Chapmon	13 Jacob McCoy Amanda Riley-Smith Amy Weaver	14
15 Worship Service 10:30am Gail Pruett Channin Bennett	16 Praise Band Practice 7pm	17 	18 Bible Study 10:30am Prayer Ministry 6:30pm Ginger Link Kiah Gaskin Rick Cassidy	19 Circle of Faith 6:30pm	20 Joel Leonard Donnie Harris Alex Stocking	21 Jackson Berini
22 Worship Service 10:30am Jimmy Turner	23 Praise Band Practice 7pm Jeanette Watkins	24 	25 Bible Study 10:30am	26 Christian Barbee	27 Andy Dill Mike Martin	28 Common Thread Ministry 9:30am Ted Martin
29 Worship Service & Praise Band 10:30am St. Mary's Homecoming 5pm Billy Johnson	30 Amy Fister	31 Blood Drive 10am-3pm				

Read & Seed Patch 8/3
6:30pm at Firefly Farm, 4911 Hunt Road, Hillsborough.
We're reading the classic story of Heidi by Johanna Spyri.
Zoom is available at <https://nccumc.zoom.us/j/99801109814> /
Meeting ID: 998 0110 9814
Contact Cindy at pmfajs@yahoo.com for more information.

Wednesday Bible Study
10:30am each Wednesday in the Clyde Walker classroom.
Zoom is available at <https://nccumc.zoom.us/j/95194663395>

Eleanor Walker Circle Meeting 8/9
7pm at Pleasant Green UMC.

Administrative Council Meeting 8/9
7pm. Meeting the 2nd Monday of each month, August-November.

Prayer Ministry 8/18
6:30 pm in the Clyde Walker Classroom/Parlor.
Please contact Gail at pruettg4mh@gmail.com for more information. Please join us! We would love to have you.

Common Thread Ministry 8/28
9:30am at Pleasant Green UMC.
Common Thread is a ministry of compassion whose goal is to provide happy, colorful butterfly pillowcases to those dying in hospice, nursing homes and in their own homes. All are welcome!
Contact Gloria Perry at 919-971-0924 for more information.

St. Mary's Chapel 69th Homecoming 8/29
5pm Sunday Service at St. Mary's Chapel
Pump organ music starts at 4:30.

St. Mary's Chapel was established in 1759 for the purpose of holding Anglican services in Orange County for the homesteaders who lived in the vicinity of the "Trading Path". The Gothic Revival Style Chapel that now stands was constructed of hand-made brick in 1859. Regular services were discontinued in the 1930's. An annual "Homecoming Day" has been observed for the last 69 years.



St. Mary's Chapel

Blood Drive at PGUMC 8/31
10am-3pm. To donate or volunteer, contact the Church office at 919.383.5764 or pgumc@ncrrbiz.com or go to redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: Pleasant Green)

Upcoming...

2021 Fall Stew - Saturday, November 6th
Mark your calendars and plan to help if you can!
A planning meeting will be held in August. Date TBD..

Happy 50th Anniversary!



Parsonage upgrades just in time for summer!

John & Ginger Link, August 8th!

God's Wondrous Works

**LET THEM
THANK THE
LORD FOR HIS
FAITHFUL LOVE
AND FOR HIS
WONDROUS
WORKS FOR ALL
PEOPLE.**

Psalm 107: 8, 15, 21, 31

For many of us, we have felt tested over this past year and a half. It may have been hard to give thanks to the Lord for his faithful love and wondrous works. What wondrous works? Well, if we search a little, we can see God's hand in all our lives. Our own health and stamina, that some of our long-suffering loved ones are at rest, comfort in our grief, provisions for food and housing, the signs of our economy coming back, scientific advances to combat COVID, the lessons we have learned, the community at Pleasant Green that has continued to exist. God remains ever faithful. He knows our needs and provides. He is ever present. He loves us the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. That is a lot to be thankful for!

Someone once said, "What would we have tomorrow if we only received what we thanked God for today." Wouldn't that be interesting? For me, some of my tomorrows would be pretty bleak because I neglected to thank God today for all his wonderful blessings.

As we move into tomorrow, planning for and anticipating changes in our own lives, church, community, nation, and the world, let us give thanks for every good thing God provides.

Let us pray Psalm 96: 1-4 – Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord! Bless his name! Share the news of his saving work every single day! Declare God's glory among the nations; declare his wondrous works among all people. Because the Lord is great and so worthy of praise. Amen!

Common Thread Ministry



Dear Friends, Russ was given a beautiful pillowcase your group made and he will enjoy using it during his illness. Common Thread Ministry will be in our prayers as well as your church and we ask for your prayers for Russ as he continues Hospice Care. Thank you.
Love in Christ, Joyce Yale

The Garden at Spring Forest 2021 Inaugural Fall CSA



Sharing life through prayer, work, table, and love of neighbor is core to our identity.



1907 New Sharon Church Rd.
Hillsborough, NC 27278
www.springforest.org
336.266.9475

The Garden at Spring Forest is a not for profit CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), project of the church that enables us to generously support area food banks. We provide mentoring in natural gardening methods, to our volunteers and guests. Our international friendship community garden--a place of hospitality and healing for refugees--is under development.

Produce and animals raised at Spring Forest enjoy a peaceful, natural, humane life cycle. Our foods are non-GMO, and are free of pesticides, herbicides, artificial hormones, and other atrocities.

Fall subscriptions available!

Sign up and pick up your box on Tuesday evenings during afternoon Garden work hours.

Full Share \$250. Add a half dozen eggs from pasture-raised chickens each week for \$30. Half shares available.

Sign up here--
<https://www.springforest.org/csa>

Sign up forms are also in the narthex and can be emailed to csa@springforest.org.

Nancy Maloney has offered to pick up orders from the farm Tuesday evenings and drop off at church!

Caring for our Mental Health. You are not alone.

Are you feeling anxious? Restless? Depressed? Experiencing unusual sensations, voices, visions?

*NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) North Carolina offers a list of resources here!
<https://naminc.org>

Feeling suicidal or in extreme distress?

*Call your local public safety office and ask for a CIT officer (Crisis Intervention Trained)

*Call the National Suicide Hotline, open 24 hours - 7 days a week:

1-800-273-8255 or text NAMI to 741-741

Other options:

*In Orange County, call Freedom House Recovery Center: 919-967-8844

*In Durham County, call Freedom House Recovery Center: 919-797-1865

*All other counties: <http://crisissolutionsnc.org/> and look up your county

Need a referral or resource information for therapists, guidance to SSI Disability income or guardianship information. For other questions or just want to talk about your experiences with someone with mental health issues?

*NAMI North Carolina Helpline is available Monday through Friday, 8:30am-5pm
Call 1-800-451-9682 / Text 919-999-6527 / Email: helpline@naminc.org

Want to learn more about yours or a loved-one's condition?

*Current listing of classes and support groups offered on-line here!

<https://naminc.org/programs/virtual-programs/>



OUR HAITIAN FRIENDS IN NORTH CAROLINA

As some of you know, I began working on a mission project shortly after the earthquake in Haiti in 2010. The project was with Lukes Mission, a nonprofit started by my friend April Perry in 2003. She has known and established a working relationship with Romel Dorsaint, a physician educated by monies from Lukes Mission and with whom I have had the pleasure to work. Romel has actually spoken at Pleasant Green on a past visit to Durham. Our teams usually operated medical clinics, provided prescription glasses, and provided water filters with education on the use of the filters.



Due to dangerous conditions in Haiti, Romel made the difficult decision to send his wife Fregga and 2 children to the US in July, just a week before the assassination of Haiti's president Jovenel Moise. His daughters are Gaelle, 7 years, and Hadassa, 3 years. Romel is safe but now living on the campus of the clinic which he runs. He speaks by phone to his family daily. The family is living in a nice RV on the property of my friends' farm. Both daughters were born in the United States so are citizens. Fregga will need to have her visa renewed in order to extend her 6 month stay here. Romel has been waiting for months for his own paperwork to clear, in case he feels like he can no longer stay in his country.

I am open to suggestions as to how to help this family. It would be helpful to have Haitian connections here in Durham, if anyone has knowledge of any. We also would be able to use someone fluent in French, as Fregga speaks French as well as Creole. She does have a good English vocabulary but struggles with speaking the language and understanding spoken English.

April and I have also reached out to other churches in our community that have supported Haitian mission teams in the past. A collaborative effort would certainly help make this transition easier. Thank you for any assistance or ideas you provide. For questions please contact Diane at wingodia@hotmail.com or 919.998.8200.

Diane Wingo

WAYS TO HELP!

Money Contributions.

Cash to support unpredicted daily needs. For example, Fall and Winter needs which will arise.

Weekly Fresh Produce.

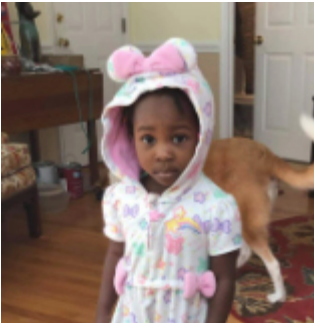
Fresh fruits and vegetables are a familiarity for our friends and we would like to provide this weekly. The Garden at Spring Forest community is currently supplying vegetables, although they do not have fresh fruit right now.

Stocking the Food Pantry.

Collecting and stocking foods that are shelf stable for everyone to use as needed throughout the year. There is plenty of storage on the farm where the family is located. Please see the list of their preferred foods.

Winter Clothes Collection.

Donations of winter clothes will be collected starting in September.



Canned Goods:

- Black beans
- Canned chicken
- Canned tuna
- Corn
- Green beans
- Peas
- Pinto beans
- Sugar free canned fruit
- Whole/diced tomatoes (no flavorings)

Dry Goods:

- Cookies
- Crackers
- Dried parsley
- Egg noodles
- Flour
- Honey
- Jar of minced garlic
- Jelly
- Lemon juice
- Mayonnaise
- Spaghetti noodles
- Peanut butter
- Rice (not instant)
- Salt
- Snacks
- Spaghetti sauce
- Splenda packets
- Sugar
- Tabasco sauce
- Tomatoes sauce
- Vegetable oil

Individual Servings:

- Applesauce
- Fruit cups
- Pudding cups

Drinks:

- Apple juice
- Coffee
- Crystal lite drink mix

Kitchen supplies:

- Brillo type pads
- Dish detergent (sink)

Toiletries:

- Deodorant
- Pull ups for 3 yrs
- Soap
- Toothpaste
- Sanitary pads



Families Moving Forward Donations Needed!

Collected in the Narthex.

- New single sheets
- New double sheets
- New comforters
- New pillows
- Diapers sizes 1,2,3,4
- Toothpaste
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Brooms
- Dust pans
- Bleach
- Small bottles of dish soap
- Clorox disinfectant wipes
- Low-sugar juice boxes
- Vitamin Water zero
- Gatorade zero
- Sugar-free water bottle packs

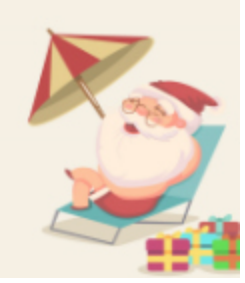


Meals on Wheels Orange County, NC, is in need of volunteers to help set-up and deliver meals in northern Orange County. MOWOCNC is currently delivering frozen meal boxes containing 5 frozen meals once per week. As we move past COVID, we are planning on returning to hot meal delivery. Our goal is to deliver hot meals M-F. In order to do so, we must expand our volunteer base from coverage of one delivery day to five. As we recruit and train more volunteers, additional delivery days will be added. If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities, please visit www.mowocnc.org or call Heather Harris, Volunteer Coordinator, 919.942.2948 ext. 3.

The United Methodist Women's Mission Project "Christmas in July" Donations Needed!

Collecting "Back to School" supplies for classrooms in our Orange County Elementary, Middle & High Schools. Please leave in the Narthex.

- Baby wipes
- Disinfecting wipes
- Antibacterial liquid hand soap
- Kleenex
- Ziploc sandwich size bags
- Ziploc gallon bags
- Band-aids
- Crayons
- Fiskars Kid size scissors
- Dry erase markers (thin and regular)
- Black sharpies (regular size)
- Highlighters
- #2 yellow pencils
- Pencil bags /boxes
- Large erasers/pencil top erasers
- Boxes of Crayola markers
- Boxes of washable Crayola markers
- Crayola watercolor paints (2 rows)
- Black & white Composition books
- Multi-color packs of construction paper
- Loose leaf notebook paper
- 2-pocket plastic folders
- Glue sticks (no rose art)
- Sticky notes (post-its)
- Index cards 3x5
- Clear contact paper
- 3-ring binders
- Book bags (no wheels)



Orange Congregations In Mission



Thank you for keeping our cart in the Narthex full and the OCIM pantry overflowing!

Any monetary donations toward MEALS ON WHEELS or OCIM operating expenses donations are also appreciated.

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
(919) 383-2339

Duke Intern:
Kory Tomlinson
kory.tomlinson@duke.edu

WAYS TO GIVE

ONLINE: www.PleasantGreenUMC.org

SMARTPHONE: Text "PleasantGreen" To: 77977

ENVELOPE: Mail or slip under office door

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!

AUGUST 31st Blood Drive at PGUMC



To sign up, contact the Church office at 919.383.5764 or pgumc@ncrrbiz.com or go to redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: Pleasant Green)

amazonsmile

Support PGUMC when you purchase through amazon smile. They donate 0.5% of your purchase price on eligible items to the "Pleasant Green United Methodist Church" charitable organization. We hope you'll consider this as we continue to find creative and generous ways to share resources together. Already have an Amazon Prime account? Go to smile.amazon.com and use your existing login. Pleasant Green's unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-1152936>



**PLEASE
RECYCLE**