



Pleasant Green
United Methodist Church

Roots & Branches

PleasantGreenUMC.org

August 2020



“What then shall **WE** say?”

In the text from Romans 8, which I have/will preach on July 26th and August 2nd, there is a great line written by the Apostle Paul that says this, “what then are we to say about these things?” What then are we to say? That’s what I am wondering. What then shall I say? What then shall I preach? What then shall I write?

It’s been 20 Sundays. Twenty Sundays since we have worshipped in person together and I never dreamed we would still be doing this at the beginning of August. And yet, here we are. *What then are we to say*, Paul wants to know. Perhaps we shall join the Psalmist in asking, “how long, O Lord?” Or the grumbling Israelites, “at least in Egypt we had our fill of bread!” Or Solomon’s request for a wise and understanding mind to discern well. Or we can join Paul’s proclamation, that “nothing in all creation shall separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Nothing. And so, we persist and we press on as the people of God – making disciples and doing what is within our power to transform the world.

I was very pleased to receive so many responses and feedback to the survey that I sent on Monday, July 20th. It helped me make some decisions about what we need to do (and not do) in the coming weeks. Thank you for taking time to do that and for your honesty in responding. Based on what I have learned and heard from you, I’d like to share what you can expect in the months of August and September.

Here’s a look at what will continue:

- Online Worship each Sunday for the months of August and September
- DVD’s of the service to provide for those who cannot access online services
- Wednesday morning gathering to read scripture, pray, and discussion readings via zoom
- Youth Zoom calls each Monday & Tuesday night
- Children’s videos made available on the OCP Facebook page & website from July’s month-long Virtual VBS
- Sunday School classes meeting on Zoom
- Monthly Prayer Team call and letters sent
- Food contributions to OCIM and Food for All
- Weekly “Spiritual Care Package” with media, poetry and prayers sent each Sunday
- The numerous other ways we stay connected through phone calls, emails, & texts

Even as we continue our online worship, we will also start to “turn up the dimmer” on beginning *some* in-person gatherings in the next couple of months. Here’s a look at what that will look like in August, and we will turn the dimmer up even more for the month of September (assuming things do not get worse).

“Backyard” Outdoor Gatherings

A couple of women’s circles have begun to have gatherings (social distancing and wearing masks) – If you feel safe gathering with a small group that has discontinued in this time, by all means, feel free to organize yourselves!

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7. Donations / Projects

Parking Lot Visits!

Wednesday, August 12th from 6-8pm and Sunday, August 30th from 1-3pm.

Like many of you, I have missed seeing your faces. I am going to plan two times where I will be hanging out in the Pleasant Green parking lot and I would welcome cars to come by, say hello, share anything on your heart or in your life, and as always, I'd be happy to pray with you too. As we have all said, nothing replaces the physical connection and this is one chance to touch base with some of you.

A Love Feast on Zoom

One piece of feedback I received from several people was concerning communion. While I do not endorse "online communion," deep in our Methodist Tradition is the Love Feast. Mark your calendars for **August 16th** – at our regular worship time (10:30am) for an alternative worship experience (via Zoom) that will include liturgy, music, and a modified communion experience that will be sacramental in nature.

Hopefully, that gives you some ideas about what to look for in August. As always, I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, that your soul might be strengthened, and that you will continue to forge friendships, holy habits, and good news to a weary world. Church, I miss you. I love you. And I'm always just a phone call away! Shalom!

Pastor Laura

Staying Connected During COVID-19

- Worship on Sundays at 10:30am – link sent out via email each Saturday and can be found on the church website
- Weekly worship is posted on Vimeo each week after worship
- DVD's of worship + hard copy devotionals prepared weekly for shut-ins and others who are not plugged in electronically
- "Daily Prayer" updated each week in the PGUMC app
- Weekly "Spiritual Care Package" via Email each Sunday afternoon
- Several Sunday school classes are meeting via Zoom on Sundays – contact your Sunday school teacher for information!
- 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
- Tuesday evening small group at 7:30pm
- Weekly Zoom calls for High Schoolers and Middle Schoolers with Carsten
- Children's video posted on the OCP
- Children's Ministry Facebook page and the OCP Website

PGUMC Financial Update

2020 Unified Budget	\$348,460.49
Y-T-D Total Income to Operating Fund	\$158,831.61
Y-T-D Operating Expenses	\$174,125.14
Y-T-D Operating Fund Balance	-\$18,293.53
2019 Operating Fund Balance Forward	\$17,640.33
2020 Current Actual Operating Fund Balance	\$2,346.80
Current Building Mortgage Balance	\$256,083.05





Faith in the Time of Loss

2 Corinthians 10:15 – We don't take pride in what other people do outside of our boundaries. We hope that our work will be extended even more by you as your faith grows, until it expands fully... (CEB).

3: 26 – For ye are all the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ (KJV).

Recently while listening to a news story on the radio, it became clear that many people are facing the loss of their homes, cars, food and medication security because they are running out of money with no hope for more in the near future. Words such as “frustrating,” “scary,” and “uncontrollable” were used by several people who were talking about their futures. In addition to these types of losses, many people have suffered the loss of relationships in some way over the past few months. These losses span a wide range, such as the loss of being with a loved one during death, loss of physical touching and hugging of grandchildren, loss of the comfort of gathering with family and friends. It is hard sometimes to imagine how we can overcome our sadness, despair, and grief when faced with this emptiness.

Two poems reflect some of these feelings:

~In Memory of Anyone Unknown to Me

by Elizabeth Jennings:

<https://www.public-domain-poetry.com/elizabeth-jennings/in-memory-of-anyone-unknown-to-me-2140>

~Love and Loss

by Madison Julius Cawein:

<https://www.public-domain-poetry.com/madison-julius-cawein/love-and-loss-11331>

Yet, even if we can't pray for ourselves because we're so lonely and hurting, having faith that things will get better because Jesus Christ is with us and looking out for us, can get us through. The poem, *Faith* by William Arthur Dunkerley, pen name for John Oxenham, may help us see some light.

Let us pray...

Let's pray this poem together this month:

Lord, give me faith! –

o live from day to day,

With tranquil heart to do my simple part,

And, with my hand in Thine,

just go Thy way.

Lord, give me faith! –

to trust, if not to know;

With quiet mind in all things Thee to find,

And child-like, go where Thou wouldst

have me go.

Lord, give me faith! –

to leave it all to Thee,

The future is Thy gift, I would not lift

The veil Thy Love has hung ‘

twixt it and me.

“I WILL!”

Say once again Thy sweet “I will!”

In answer to my prayers. “

Lord, if Thou wilt!” –

“I WILL!” - Rise up above thy cares!” Amen

The Prayer Ministry meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm. If NC and our United Methodist Church are still in a state of emergency due to COVID-19, we will meet by free conference call on August 19. Otherwise, we will meet in the parlor (Clyde Walker Classroom). Look for more information through the bulletin or the PGUMC emailed weekly news as we get closer to that date. You may also contact Gail at pruettg4mh@gmail.com.

Please join us! We would love to have you. The next meeting is Wednesday, August 19 at 6:30 pm.

What's next...

- **Connectional Table Meeting**

Monday, August 10th at 7pm ~ zoom

- **The Read & Seed Patch**

R - relax, E - enjoy, A - attend, D - discuss & Seed
Thursday, August 6th at 6:30pm ~ zoom

"Gold" by Chris Cleave

Please email Cindy Stubbs for the zoom link:
fireflyfarm2015@gmail.com

- **Faith Formation Program**

Tuesday, August 4th at 7:30pm

Celebration of Faith

Meeting Format & Content:

Catch up & Share (15 minutes)

1. Spiritual Food for Thought (15 minutes)
2. Share our Stories (30 minutes)
~Focus on our experiences with weekly theme
~What can we learn from each other?
~Allow each person to speak
3. Share in Prayer (15 minutes)
~Articulate prayer requests, and pray together
~Pray for each other.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://duke.zoom.us/j/97310050489>

[pwd=SUXLSmNSZzZWOTcyTW12WnJmSIU1dz09](https://duke.zoom.us/j/97310050489)

- **PGUMC Charge Conference**

Sunday, October 11th at 1:00pm ~ zoom

The Bishop has requested that Charge Conferences be virtual this fall. This will be done as individual churches (instead of clusters as we have grown used to the past few years) with District Superintendent Mike Frese and Assistant DS Sarah Carter.

WALK, RUN, BIKE the PGUMC TRAIL!



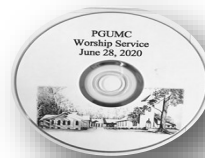
We continue to blaze a trail around our 18-acre property and invite you to come help or just enjoy! Signs are up at every entrance and exit thanks to Van McCay!

Up for grabs...

- **Sunday Worship Service**

DVD's & weekly devotionals!

Pickup in the Parlor or
call Church office for delivery.



- **The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide**

Donated to the Pleasant Green congregation
by the United Methodist Women.

Pick up in the Narthex. *The Upper Room*

- **UMCOR's Coffee & Chocolate**

Coffee - \$8 per bag

Decaf & Regular Ground

Chocolate Bars - \$2.50 each

Milk Chocolate

Dark Chocolate Caramel Crunch



This fair trade economic model provides opportunities for churches to support a system that nurtures rather than diminishes God's vision of abundant life. UMCOR's partner is the employee owned fair trade organization called Equal Exchange.

Our July Blood Drive was a success!

A total of 33 units donated!



Thank you!



Congratulations

Charles Carsten Bryant
 Born July 23rd, 7 pounds 5.6 ounces
 Son of Carsten & Christine Bryant

Ava Jaymes Glidden
 Born July 19th, 6 pounds 4 ounces
 Daughter of Ashley & Jay Glidden
 Granddaughter of Sandra & Billy Totten

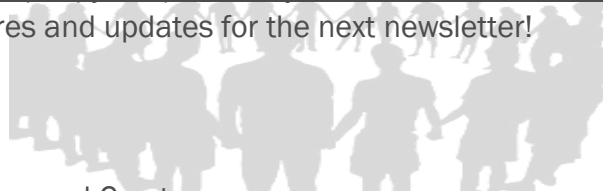


Sophia Alex Santibañez
 Born on July 15th, 6 pounds 10 ounces
 Daughter of Leah & Ricky Santibañez
 Granddaughter of Sue & Bobby Parrish

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS	
01 Kayleigh Freeman McCoy	10 Neo Best Brock Snowden Davis Leonard
02 Sydney Baker	11 Brett Barbee Steven Collins
03 Brad Morris Barbara Rodgers Michelle Baker	12 Meredith Chapmon
04 Joe Berini	13 Jacob McCoy Amanda Riley-Smith Amy Weaver
05 Shane Overaker Gary Burke	15 Gail Pruett Channin Bennett
06 John Richard Ray	18 Ginger Link Kiah Gaskin Rick Cassidy
07 Nola King Daisy LaBarre Al Edens	19 Joel Leonard
08 Margaret Latta	20 Donnie Harris Alex Stocking
09 Bill Weaver Parker Bourlon Johnathan Whitford	21 Jackson Berini
	22 Jimmy Turner
	23 Janette Watkins
	26 Christian Barbee
	27 Andy Dill Mike Martin
	28 Ted Martin
	29 Billy Johnson
	30 Amy Fister

pleasant
green
» youth group
zoom

- Middle schoolers zoom Mondays at 7pm
- High schoolers zoom Tuesdays at 7pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85769219943>
- Schedule your driveway visit with Carsten!
<https://calendly.com/ocpyouth/driveway-visit?month=2020-07>
- Please share pictures and updates for the next newsletter!



Many thanks to Christine and Carsten Bryant for organizing 4 weeks of children's virtual VBS throughout July! Pastors and interns throughout the OCP took turns hosting Zoom calls and creating short videos throughout the month. Families can still access these resources on the OCP Children's ministry Facebook page and the OCP website.
(password: cometothetable)



Summer Browning
Scholarship Recipient:

Dear Pleasant Green Community,

I would like to say thank you so much for your support all this time— both with the assistance with the Summer Browning Scholarship as well as keeping me in your thoughts and prayers.

This scholarship has helped my family and I with offsetting costs associated with my education. This helps fund supplies, textbooks, and helps alleviate the financial pressure of school, allowing the more intense focus upon my schoolwork. For that you have my greatest appreciation from the bottom of my heart.

I would again like to say thank you for all the support that you have given— through the years and now. I hope that all of you are safe in these trying times.

Your friend and neighbor, Ian Casker

Project AGAPE — ministry to Armenia and to some of our most desperate Christian brothers and sisters — is a collaborative effort of the North Carolina and the Western North Carolina Conferences of The United Methodist Church in a joint effort with the Armenian Apostolic Church.

All the work of the United Methodist Church in Armenia is totally funded by your financial support. Please prayerfully consider giving to this wonderful mission! 100% of your gift goes to the ministry.

The Project AGAPE ministry on the ground in Berdzor, Artzakh helps to support a children's home, a hospital, a clinic, and an after-school program that enables children and youth to develop essential life skills. Those ministries need our support.

Donations from Churches have helped the Board to supply cows to 135 families and chickens and garden tools to even more families. These donations are essential for our partnership with Armenians and refugee families in Artsakh to enable them to be self-sufficient.



American Greater Armenian Partnership Efforts

To give to this important UMC Mission, make checks payable to PGUMC with Armenia, Project AGAPE or NC Conference Advance #S-00004 on the memo line.

Follow this link to find out MORE information:

<https://nccumc.org/outreach/project-agape/>





The Rose Garden

The rose garden at Pleasant Green is a great resource to bring beauty and a remembrance of our Church to the sick, shut-ins or to keep for yourself!



Come cut your roses!

- ~ Take a container of water to the garden.
- ~ Cut roses at a 45 degree angle just above a leaf on a stem that has five leaflets. It is important to cut roses correctly, as new growth forms at the place of cutting.
- ~ Place any dead roses or leaves in the bucket beside the fence door.
- ~ Pull a few weeds while you're there ;)

Help is always welcome to keep our roses looking beautiful. Please contact the church office if you would like to help. Thank you!

Habitat for Humanity in Hillsborough



Thank you to everyone at PGUMC that helped fulfill our financial commitment of \$2000 to Orange County Habitat.

Habitat remains hard at work for the most vulnerable people and communities in Orange County and needs volunteers. Please contact Jim Perry if you can help! Peryjames@twc.com.

“ I am a future homeowner at Crescent Magnolia Habitat’s newest community in Hillsborough. I personally want to thank you for helping me, and other Crescent members achieve some financial security through home ownership. I so appreciate your generosity. ”
~Susan Logan

THANK YOU to everyone for helping to make our Church look beautiful this summer!
Continued help is always welcome!
Please contact Van McCay:
919-259-2721 / vmccay@nc.rr.com.



Please continue to drop off food items for those who are food-insecure in our community!

Donations needed:

- brooms & dust pans
- toilet paper
- paper towels
- bath towels
- tooth paste
- bleach
- clorox disinfectant wipes
- small bottles of dish soap
- low sugar juice boxes
- vitamin water zero
- sugar free water bottle packs
- gatorade zero



“ I would like to thank all the Pleasant Green congregation for supporting FMF. They have gone far beyond expectations. The residents at FMF are very appreciative. ”
~Nancy from FMF



The United Methodist Women’s “Christmas in July” Mission Project

“Back to School” classroom items needed! The school supplies are donated to Orange County Elementary, Middle & High Schools. Please leave in the Narthex.



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

Website: PleasantGreenUMC.org
Church E-mail: pgumc@ncrrbiz.com

Pastor: Rev. Laura Thompson (919) 383-2339
lthompson@nccumc.org

Youth Parish Coordinator: Carsten Bryant
Carsten.bryant@duke.edu



SUPPORT PGUMC WHEN YOU PURCHASE THROUGH

amazonsmile

They will donate 0.5% of your purchase price on eligible products 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 Amazon Prime account login.

For easy access please click Pleasant Green's unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-1152936>

WAYS TO GIVE AT PLEASANT GREEN UMC

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 in advance for your generosity!

Three ways you may give to Pleasant Green UMC:

ONLINE: www.pleasantgreenumc.org

MOBILE: Text: "PLEASANTGREEN" To: 77977

ENVELOPE: Check: mail or slip under the office door

Please recycle this newsletter!



DOWNLOAD THE PGUMC APP!

We are constantly finding new ways to stay connected, and beginning in June, our hope is to also utilize this way of reaching out and sharing some good news with you each day. For people with a smartphone, here's how to get it:

Search "Pleasant Green UMC" and download from the app store (it's free!)

Text "pleasantgreenapp" to 77977 (download link!)

Once it is downloaded, feel free to look around. One of the features we're excited to share through the app is a "Daily Prayer" feature -- a place where you can click for a Bible verse, prayer, and thought of the day Monday-Friday. It will be right there at your fingertips if you find yourself at the breakfast table or sitting in line at the bank. We hope this will be a daily gift and inspiration for you and your family.