



PleasantGreen  
*United Methodist Church*

PleasantGreenUMC.org

## ***Roots & Branches***

**December 2018**



### **Running in the Dark**

For the fourth year in a row, I have joined a group of Methodist pastor friends on a 200-mile journey (by foot) from Raleigh to Atlantic Beach. Each member of the team ends up running between 15-20 miles and one thing that is always a guarantee is at least one night run. So at about 10:30pm on a Friday night, I started gearing up for a 9-mile run through the country roads of Duplin County. Headlamp - check. Blinky light on the back- check. Headphones - check (even though this was against course rules). Chewing gum - check (a running necessity of mine).

I've done this race a number of times but one thing that never ceases to amaze me is what happens in the late night hours and the wee hours of the morning. It seems that when darkness sets in, there is a new sense of excitement and adrenaline that take over. I'm certainly not saying that it is always *fun* running at 2am when you haven't slept or eaten properly and muscles are cramped up. But, I *am saying* that something new happens: your senses are awakened; there is a mystery to the night that isn't present during the day; you can see your breath; you feel alone until you glimpse another blinking light from a runner in the distance or hear the howling of an owl in the backwoods of rural eastern Carolina. The imagination is reignited. You feel every strike of the pavement and become more aware of the sensation in your body.

It feels a lot like... Advent. A season that comes in darkness. A season that contains the longest night of the year - where grief sneaks up on us and joy moves in and your heart can hardly hold it all. A time when something new is being birthed but not yet here. The imagination is sparked. It's a season that demands a different kind of vigilance. So we light candles to see in the dark. We listen to new sounds. We pay attention in different ways. It's not like running during the day. We have to take a closer look, be slightly more aware. This is what happens when I run in the darkness. This is the invitation of Advent.

Oh, and what an invitation it is. To turn inward to the places in our lives that have been ignored, or feared, or shunned. To turn outward to the neighbors that have been forgotten. To dream about the new thing that God is doing in our midst but only knowing it as mystery. To pay attention to the very parts of God waiting to be unleashed. The invitation is to go into the darkness of the season and bring it into the light.

In Advent, we remember that the dawn is not yet here. We also take courage that there are gifts in the darkness. And so we grab our lights, we lace up our shoes, we add an extra layer of clothing. We hear the sounds of creation whispering in their nests. We can't see much, but we can see our breath, reminding us that we are alive. It comes around every year. And every year, we have a new opportunity to participate and be present. Will you walk this Advent journey? My answer will always be yes. Because it's a little bit like running in the dark.

-Laura

The mystic Meister Eckhart once said "if the only prayer you said in your whole life was 'thank you,' that would be sufficient." October was Pastor Appreciation month and throughout the month, many of you expressed your appreciation to me. With every card, word, or hug, I was very quick to whisper a simple prayer of gratefulness. Church family, I love you dearly and it is a great privilege to be your pastor. I give thanks for your expressions of appreciation more than you know! Thank you. -Laura

Pleasant Greeners October 24th  
with the Praise Band



All sang Happy  
Birthday to Vannie  
Carter!



UMW Auction October 20th



Thanks to all who donated and  
purchased items to make another  
successful UMW Auction! \$5063  
raised!

Congratulations to the 2018 Quilt  
Winner: **Mary Ann Hamm!**



Hurricane Relief BBQ Fundraiser Nov. 9th



The Thursday Night  
Band & the Doc  
Branch Band play  
for a Hurricane  
Relief Fundraiser,  
sponsored by  
PGUMC and Mt.  
Hermon Baptist  
Church. **\$4155 was  
raised!**



Advent Bible Study  
Wednesdays at 10:30 am  
*All Earth is Waiting*



*All Earth is Waiting* by Katie Z. Dawson

Quite simply, we have a responsibility to care for this earth in preparation for Christ's return. This is the message of *All Earth is Waiting*. Explore the familiar Advent themes of hope, preparation, joy, and peace with the heavens and earth in mind and consider how all creation longs for the coming of Christ, taking seriously the notion that the good news of Christ is good news for all.

*Many thanks* to Brandon Lee  
and Van McCay for removing a  
very large fallen tree from the  
Church driveway on  
November 14th!



Thank you  
James Hamm  
and Van  
McCay for  
cleaning the  
carpets in the  
Narthex and  
hallway!

Hurricane Relief  
Loading flood buckets, diapers and baby food for  
our neighbors down East.



**Great Christmas Gift Idea!**

PGUMC Cookbook \$16





**Welcome new  
Members Dwayne  
& Cathy  
Marlowe!  
November 11, 2018**

**Thank you to Hurricane Relief Team Members  
Al Edens, James Hamm, Jeremy Whitford, Tim  
Owens, Kathy Thomas, Mark Stocking, Jim Perry  
and Theresa Stocking for your work in  
Wilmington, NC on November 11th!**

**Your Help is needed for the  
MISSION MARKET on December 15th!**

*All proceeds go to our mission local & global fund*

**\*All invited to help make Chocolate Covered  
Cherries at 5:30pm on Thursday, December  
13th following a chili supper!**

**\*Please sign up in the Narthex to donate your  
favorite homemade baked goods, canned goods,  
local produce, crafts, etc.!**

**To be a part of this, please contact:**

**Wendy at wen\_a@nc.rr.com or**

**Kathryn at katjyforall@gmail.com**

**Welcome Baby!**

Caroline Paige Clark, daughter of  
Sara & Michael Clark, sister of  
Carly Ann, granddaughter of  
Debbie & Steven Collins and  
great-granddaughter of Elaine  
Flannery, born on November 6th  
weighing 8 lbs 8.2 oz.



**Words of Gratitude**

Dear Saints at PGUMC,



We received your letter covenanting prayer for  
Dwight's health situation. It is encouraging to know  
that there are believers, states away from us, are lifting  
us up in prayer. We are trusting God for His healing  
touch. He is the "great I Am" who never changes.  
Thank you all. Sincerely, *Dwight & Helen Doerring*

**O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

*Janice Nicholson, a member of the Prayer Ministry,  
wrote this meditation to help her process recent  
traumatic events. It is worth sharing with everyone; so  
that you can benefit, too.*

On the weekend following the shootings at a  
synagogue in Squirrel Hill, PA, I attended a Shabbat  
service at a service in Raleigh as part of the "Show  
Up for Shabbat" movement. The service reminded  
me of what an interconnected world we live in. A  
former rabbi at the Raleigh synagogue is now one of  
the rabbis at Tree of Life synagogue. He has  
presided over three funerals for members of his  
congregation whom he saw be killed. A member of  
the Raleigh congregation grew up in Squirrel  
Hill. Another person was a relative of the one of the  
people killed.

The rabbi told us that in addition to the five senses,  
there is a sixth sense of memory. For the Jewish  
community the murders in a synagogue are part of a  
history of persecution. His own grandparents fled  
Russia and the Cossacks. Many members of the  
congregation lost much of their family in the  
Holocaust. If you have wondered why the news  
reports from Pittsburgh noted the high proportion of  
Jewish families in Squirrel Hill, it is because Jews  
used to be prohibited from living in many areas. So  
when they found a community in which they were  
welcome, they clustered there. I grew up near the  
Columbus, OH suburb of Bexley which has a similar  
concentration of Jews. I learned to swim at the  
Jewish Community Center because the Jewish  
community wanted to be inclusive of their neighbors  
even as they knew there were many parts of  
Columbus in which they were unwelcome.

As I listened to the rabbi speak, I realized I was  
hearing the background of the hymn "O God, Our  
Help in Ages Past, Our Hope for Years to  
Come." Those who trust in God and remain faithful  
to God recognize that God has given them the  
strength to persevere in the face of hardships. And  
because they have that memory of God's presence  
and power, they can move forward with hope even  
in the midst of fearful times.

Thanksgiving is a quintessential American  
holiday. It is not a holiday exclusive to one race or  
one religion. It is a holiday for all those want to  
give thanks for the blessings we experience each  
day. And as we give thanks for the past and the  
present, we can move forward in faith knowing that  
God has been our help in the past and will continue  
to be a source of strength and hope in the days  
ahead.



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
DECEMBER 10TH**



# pleasant green youth group



## December Youth Calendar

Friends, Fellowship, Games and Lessons / Sunday  
School 10am



*Dec. 9th—3:30pm-6pm Christmas Caroling, Lessons & Adopt A Family Service Project*  
*Dec. 14th—6-10pm Christmas Party at the home of the Cassidy's*

### "Dinner Out" Nov. 4th



### Halloween Carnival!



### Youth Pilgrimage 2018 Fayetteville, NC



**#LoveThyNeighbor** Four months into my latest tenure serving as our youth leader has been so rewarding and uplifting. Although our youth do not always notice it, they are inspiring me with their giving hearts and servant's mentality.

As a Clemson grad, I am a fairly simple-minded person. And in the Gospels, Jesus paints a very clear picture... love God with all your heart, mind, body, and soul and love thy neighbor as thyself. And I love the ways he ends this by stating we can hang everything on these two things.

For the youth, love thy neighbor is our theme this year. We have targeted service projects each month that help build stronger habits when it comes to living this theme in our daily lives. And what we have found out so far is that our neighbors include our military deployed all over this world, people impacted by the devastating effects of the two major hurricanes throughout our state, people who are starving throughout the world, and even classmates at our local middle school who without our youth group would not be getting anything for Christmas. *-Richard*

## Worship at the Eno October 28th



**BAPTISM**

Baptism of John Walden Perry  
October 28th

### Mission Market

Craft Sundays 10:15AM

December 2nd

December 9th



**We need all children & youth to help us make crafts for the market!**

*Service project to support the Mission Teams of Pleasant Green*

8:30am December 30th

Hearts & Hands to Murdoch Center



7:00pm December 13th

Dream Weavers at the Parsonage

### Prayer Team Meeting

Come pray with us for strength and hope the face of difficult times. Let us give thanks for perseverance, God's continuing presence, and for God's love in caring for us and others. Also, let us pray for those who are persecuted. Our next prayer ministry meeting is on **Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.**



5:30 Thursday, December 13th

Join us for a chili dinner and to make chocolate covered cherries for Mission Market!

### Blood Drive



December 16th 9 am — 1:30 pm

*Sign up in the Narthex to give the gift of life!*



### FOOD FOR ALL

Tuesday, December 11th

*Sponsored by the Seekers SS Class*



# Thanks to all who helped with the UMM Brunswick Stew November 3rd!



Brunswick Stew still available ~ \$9 a quart



## Advent at Pleasant Green

December Worship Schedule  
 No 8:30am Service  
 11:00am Worship ONLY

**Saturday, December 1st**  
**Advent Decorating begins**  
**at 9:00am**  
**Come and bring family &**  
**friends!**



**Christmas Caroling**  
**to our shut-ins**

**Sunday,**  
**December 9th at 3:30pm**  
*Join us as we spread the joy of*  
*the season!*

**Order Poinsettias** to be placed  
 in the Sanctuary during the  
 Christmas Season. **Deadline to**  
**order and pay is December 9th.**  
 Sign up sheets for Poinsettias  
 given in honor or memory of  
 loved ones, are in the Narthex .  
 The cost is \$7.00.



**Make checks with**  
**Poinsettia on the**  
**memo line to PGUMW and**  
**place in the offering plate.**

*Please bring gifts of food*  
*for OCIM on Christmas*  
*Eve, the Sunday after*  
*Christmas and Epiphany Sunday.*



**UMW Christmas Dinner**  
**December 10th— 6:30 p.m.**

*ALL women of the church are invited!*

*Please bring a dessert.*

*Sign up on the UMW bulletin board*  
*by December 2nd*



**Candle Burning for Missions**

*Give a donation to burn a candle in memory or honor.*

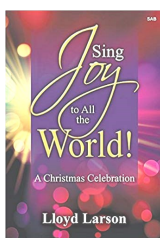
### Pleasant Green Mission Market

**Saturday, Dec. 15TH - Fellowship Hall 9am**  
*Come early for best selection!*



Please sign up to bring your favorite homemade cookies or  
 baked goods. We will have a wonderful variety of cookies,  
 cakes, pies, breads, and candies as well as handcrafted items—jewelry,  
 ornaments, knitting, Salvadoran items, stocking stuffers and other gifts.  
**Bags, boxes & bows will be available.**

*It is a fun time—so tell your friends! Come take care of your*  
*holiday baking needs!*



**Christmas Cantata**  
**11am Sunday**  
**December 23rd**

"We gather to tell the story  
 of Emmanuel, God With  
 Us! We gather to remember

this story, to wait, and watch for Him to  
 come again—even now. Come, Lord Jesus!"  
 The overriding theme of this inspiring  
 Christmas work by Lloyd Larson is joy. It  
 celebrates the promise that joy comes to  
 those who wait, that following the long  
 dark night, the breaking of dawn brings joy  
 for the new day. The Old Testament tells of  
 God's promise to Israel, which was fulfilled  
 in the coming of the Messiah to the remote  
 village of Bethlehem. As recipients of that  
 joy, it becomes the privilege and  
 responsibility of all who have experienced it  
 to share the good news: "Sing Joy to All the  
 World!" The music incorporates original  
 melodies with familiar carols in a work that  
 ranges from contemplative to celebratory.



**CHILDREN'S**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**NATIVITY**  
**PRACTICE**

IN THE CHAPEL~ K & up  
 9:30AM—10:15AM  
 SUNDAYS, DEC. 2ND & 9TH  
 10AM—12PM  
 SATURDAY, DEC. 15TH

### Children's Nativity

**11AM Worship**  
**December 16th**



**Children—all ages are**  
**invited to take part in the**  
**Children's Christmas**  
**Nativity.**

**Sign up in the Narthex.**



**Christmas Eve Worship**  
**5:00pm Communion**  
**Candlelight Service**



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

**Non-Profit Org.**  
**US POSTAGE PAID**  
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**Permit No. 5**

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

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

**lthompson@nccumc.org**

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

**richard.l.cassidy@gsk.com**

*The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide is provided free of charge to the PGUMC congregation by the United Methodist Women. Located in the Narthex.*



PGUMC Commemorative Plates still available! Celebrate our 186th year with a beautiful plate featuring the Old Sanctuary.

A sample plate is on display in the Narthex. \$25 each. Contact the church office.



**Pleasant Green UMC is collecting items for families at Stanford Middle school to take home with them during the holidays. Items**

**can be found on the Christmas tree in the Narthex and include basic household items such as toilet tissue, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, etc.**



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE DECEMBER 10TH**

Please recycle this newsletter.



***Moravian Love Feast on Epiphany Sunday***  
***January 6, 2019~ 6:00 p.m.***



*Join us in the old sanctuary for this traditional Moravian Candlelight Service with coffee and sweet bread.*



**December Sunday Worship Schedule**  
**No 8:30am Service—11:00am Worship only**



**9AM—11AM Saturday**  
**December 15th**

**HOMEMADE BAKED GOODS**

Cookies, cakes, candies, breads, canned goods, chocolate covered cherries and more!

**HANDCRAFTED ITEMS**

Jewelry, ornaments, knitting, Salvadoran items, stocking stuffers and other gifts

Cookies and Candies - \$9.00 per lb.

Decorative gift boxes, bags, and ribbon available

*Sponsored by the Mission Teams of Pleasant Green*



*Please bring gifts of food for OCIM on Christmas Eve, the Sunday after Christmas and Epiphany Sunday.*

