



Pleasant Green *United Methodist Church*

PleasantGreenUMC.org

Roots & Branches

February 2020



I was headed straight downhill at roughly 18 mph. My heart was pumping and I felt a rush of adrenaline pulse through my body. Eyes wide open, speed increasing, secretly hoping I don't hit an ice patch, I giggle and smile at the pure enjoyment of flying down a mountain with a group of friends. I've been snowboarding since I was in middle school and this particular group of pastor friends has been making annual ski trips to Snowshoe for 10 years now. This is not new to me. But a thought crossed my mind as I sailed down a slope cleverly called "the Widow Maker." *I am so in control and I am so not in control right now.* A good metaphor for ministry. A good image for leadership. Soaring downhill one minute and the potential of being flat on your face in the next moment (good news: that did not happen).

The more I thought about this statement and this experience, the more I could acknowledge that, actually, this is the way it is for all of us in life. Teachers can pour their hearts into lesson plans and teach with excellence and the student may or may not read the material and study. Parents can instill values, discipline, pour their love and hearts into their children, and ultimately they will leave home and make their own decisions in life. Doctors can prescribe medications, perform perfect surgeries, but ultimately the health and well-being of a patient is beyond their expertise. In some ways, we are in control; and in many ways, most things are completely beyond our control; which begs the question of how do we live as grounded and centered people, with hands loosing holding that which we ultimately cannot control? (the patches of ice that trip us up, the out of control skier that bumps us from behind, the terrible weather prohibiting our visibility...) How do we maintain peace in the midst of the storm? Calm in the chaos?

It was a question that was on my mind at the beginning of January when, three hours back into the office after Christmas break I was greeted by: world news of the US killing Iran's supreme leader (and threats of a world war), national headlines reporting a denominational split in the UMC (and the institutional anxiety that infiltrates to a local level leading to all kinds of questions and clarifications), and multiple messages of concern about church safety and security sparked by the recent Texas shooting on the fifth day of Christmas. *How do we be people of peace, people of calm in the chaos? How do we live centered lives when so much is beyond our control in our world, our church, our very lives?*

How do we equip ourselves as people of faith? I'd like to offer several thoughts. One thing that sets us apart as people of faith is a deep belief in a God who not only created the world, called it good, but also sends the Holy Spirit to sustain our lives and offer us grace – day after day after day after day. When the world is spinning around us, I believe it is of utmost importance to ask ourselves the question: how am I listening for the One true voice when so many other voices are clamoring for my attention? It means we have to cultivate practices to create spaces where we can give our attention to God – corporate worship, devotion and prayer, service. We have within us the capacity to be more centered and grounded people if we can cultivate stillness, silence, solitude, thus creating the atmosphere for us to be people who are self-aware and also awakening us to God's spirit of guidance in our lives and world.

Lent is a season when we are gifted with the atmosphere and space to return to a centered place within, to cultivate spiritual practices and give our attention to God. Every Ash Wednesday, we read from the book of Joel, "return to me with all your heart" (2:12). Perhaps this is a season when you want to engage that question of "how am I paying attention to God? How am I actively engaging a practice that helps me be more aware of myself and of God?" Maybe that looks like a new devotional practice for you. Or introducing a spiritual discipline or silence into your life. Maybe it means offering yourself in acts of service and becoming more involved in various ministries at our church. Maybe it means living fully into the rhythms of our liturgical season and worshipping on Ash Wednesday and Holy Week? Or being part of a new Bible study, small group, or joining a Sunday school class?

I pray that as we navigate a world and culture that is growing more divided; as we enter into changing contexts in our denomination, and as we hold all those things dear to us in our personal lives (children, parents, friends, sorrow, joy), we can learn to live as people with deep spiritual rootedness. And when we get to the end of the trail, to the bottom of the mountain, with hearts pumping, may we breathe deeply God's goodness. We are alive. Life pulses through our veins. We are not alone. God is with us. Thanks be to God. *Pastor Laura*

We're Hiring!

Pleasant Green United Methodist Church is seeking a Church Administrative Assistant. This position will be part-time (16 hrs/wk), hourly pay and year-round. The Administrative Assistant reports directly to the Pastor and will primarily focus on assisting the church in carrying out its mission by planning and implementing effective organizational processes to achieve its goals.

Qualified applicants will have the following skill sets: computer literacy (proficiency in Word, Excel, Publisher, Access); organizational skills; strong interpersonal relations including oral, written and electronic communications skills; ability to update and maintain website and web-based ministry; the ability to maintain a high level of confidentiality; and knowledge or experience with general administrative office procedures.

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to Pastor Laura Thompson at ltompson@nccumc.org.

For more information and a complete job description, please contact Pastor Laura.

PGUMC's
talented
Staff!



Eleanor Walker Circle's
Back Pack Ministry at
Central Elementary

Food Donations are needed!

The Back Pack Ministry provides for a mother with 8 children, 5 are students at Central Elementary.

In addition to food please bring paper bags with handles to help with the food delivery.

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. Therefore, we want to help you find a way of giving that is convenient and meets your needs. 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!



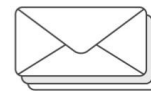
ONLINE

www.pleasantgreenumc.org



MOBILE

Text:
"PLEASANTGREEN"
To: 77977



ENVELOPE

Cash & Check

Methodist Home for Children Sunday Offering ~ February 16th



Help make a difference in the world...one child at a time. Your special offering will help clothe, feed and provide for children in our care as well as provide support to our foster and adoptive parents who offer safe and loving homes for children all over NC.

Make checks payable to PGUMC.

At Methodist Home for Children, we work to provide safe, stable homes where children can thrive and live fully into their God-given potential. While not always traditional or biological, an MHC home is where both child and family are equipped to succeed. It may be a group home that helps juvenile offenders transition to healthy, independent living or a foster home that shelters a child while his family is stabilized. Whatever form it takes, the end goal is always the same—a safe, stable home.

Founded in 1899 as a traditional, campus-based orphanage, we now provide community-based services for children and families throughout North Carolina. We partner with public agencies to serve children in crisis and we raise private funds to ensure that we can deliver the best in evidence-based services. **We Change Lives!**

Readers invited! Please join us!

We are organizing a small group of people who love to read. Our first gathering is **Thursday, February 6**, starting at **6:30 pm**. We will meet at the home of Cindy Stubbs on Firefly Farm (4911 Hunt Road, Hillsborough). We are asking everyone one to bring a book that they love and a book that they hated so that we can gain some insights on everyone's reading likes and dislikes. Our goal is to choose our books for the year and jump into reading! Sound like fun?

If you have questions, please reach out to Cindy at fireflyfarm2015@gmail.com or call/text (770)722-1107.



From the PGUMC Hurricane Relief Team...



We will travel to locations assigned by UMCOR to help with different phases of hurricane relief - tarping, muck out, painting, trash removal, installing sheet rock. The next Mission Trip to Lumberton is **February 15**, followed by **April 18** & in Fayetteville on **March 14**.

If anyone wishes to join the team please contact Jim Perry at: [perryjames™ twc.com](mailto:perryjames@twc.com).

The first Saturday work detail was in Lumberton on **January 18** with team members:

James Hamm, Jeff Witt, Sandy Quinn, Dennis Nicholson, Al Edens, Mark Stocking, Charlie Moore, Jim Perry, Andrea Harris, Nancy Maloney and Glisceria Vindas.



Ray of hope blooming in the front yard.



From the Orange County Public Library -

Looking for a healthy start to the new year?

Meditation for Beginners is a four-week series beginning in April and will explore different approaches to meditation. People are not all the same, and no single approach works well for everyone. Meditation is a very simple practice that can make enormous impact in our lives, but it is intimidating. Benefits of meditation are numerous, including improved focus, reduced stress and stress-based inflammation, strengthened immunity, and improved longevity. The series will offer a combination of discussion, guided practices, self-led practices, and tools for aiding the start of a home-based, self-led practice.

See Terri Leonard if you want more information.

Stay connected with Pleasant Green whenever and wherever you are!

We know that the church is not a building - it's the people! That being said, a few months ago, we introduced a new way to give - with an online option (including an automatic draft function) or through text message. Now, we are excited to announce that we have added a podcast feature to our website. If you miss a Sunday, simply go to pleasantgreenumc.org and you will find each week's sermon under the "Worship" tab or download our podcasts on the podbean app on your phone. And finally, we are also excited to announce the new Pleasant Green UMC app! How to get it on your phone: Text "pleasantgreenapp" to 77977 and you'll receive a link to download.

February Youth Calendar

February 2 - YOUTH to lunch
 February 9 - 5:00 - 7:00 pm
 February 23 - 5:00 - 7:00 pm
 February 28 & 29 - 30 Hour Famine

30 Hour Famine



Hosted by World Vision, an international Christian humanitarian organization that serves children and families in nearly 100 countries, the 30 Hour Famine seeks to raise awareness and support to end world hunger. Our youth will also stand in solidarity with the more than 26,000 children around the world who die from hunger and preventable diseases each day.

Ways you can participate with our Youth:

Pray for the youth and leaders throughout the event, that they might not only have endurance, but also their eyes might be opened in new ways and their hands moved to service. Donate financial support by sponsoring one of our youth participants. Just think, every dollar you donate provides another day of food and care for a child in need.

Mission / Vision Statement

Using the energy of the Super Bowl to mobilize youth in a united national effort to care for people in their local communities who are hungry and those in need. Transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



~ Sunday, February 2 ~

Our youth will be collecting monetary donations (in soup pots) at the sanctuary doors after worship. All in attendance are encouraged to drop \$1 (or more) in the pot on their way out. You may also bring food for OCIM food cart.

A simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" is inspiring a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world.



CONGRATULATIONS
 to
Millie Nichols
 &
Sara Witt!
 They were selected
 to dance in
New York's
Thanksgiving Day
Parade!

*If you know
 of a
 church family
 member's
 birthday
 that is not on
 our calendar
 list please
 email the
 church office!*



Why avoiding single use plastics and re-cycling are so important!

Did you read that Durham is the first municipality in North Carolina to decide not to purchase bottled water with public funds unless there is an emergency? Water will still be available at public events and public offices but will be offered in disposable cups not plastic bottles.

Why are plastic water bottles getting such a bad reputation? According to the magazine Popular Science, plastic doesn't decompose but breaks down into smaller and smaller plastic pieces. The plastic bags we get from stores take from 10-20 years to break down. Plastic bottles may take as long as 450 years. Some of the plastic we discard collects in huge masses floating in the ocean. Some scientists warn that by 2050 – only 30 years from now – there will be more plastic in our oceans than fish!

What happens to the tiny bits of plastic? We eat and drink some of it without even realizing there is plastic embedded in our food and beverages.

What can each of us do? Use less plastic. Re-cycle as much as possible. Take reusable bags to the grocery instead of using their bags. Drink water from a glass or reusable bottle. Reusable bags and water bottles are available in a box in the narthex to make it easier for you to help protect our environment.

Janice Nicholson



PLEASE place new or almost new reusable water bottles & reusable shopping bags in the Narthex box.

If you need a reusable water bottle or shopping bag, help yourself!



from the Prayer Ministry...

Christian Education Ministries in Truth and Love

Psalm 25: 5 - 6 Lead me in your truth - teach it to me - because you are the God who saves me. I put my hope in you all day long. Lord, remember your compassion and faithful love - they are forever!
(Common Life Bible)



Long before people knew there would be a Jesus Christ, David wrote in Psalms that God has truth. David is speaking for us when he says, “ - teach it [truth] to me - because you are the God who saves me.” In the next verse, David asks God to remember his compassion and faithful love. During this month of February (and, all year long!!), the Christian Education Ministries embodies truth and love as these Ministries work to assure that we all understand Jesus’ truth, which was pure love and compassion. Young children through oldsters alike are taught to love God, love our neighbors as ourselves, serve as Disciples, and make Disciples of others.

The charge for these Ministries is to be responsible for the oversight and implementation of the church’s ministry of Christian Education. Some areas of oversight include the Sunday School Program, short term and long-term Bible Study programs, and Vacation Bible School. Wendy Anderson and Gloria Perry are Co -chairs, shepherding the members Becky Brogden, Steven Collins, Wanda Edens, Millie Hunter, Jean Nichols, Pastor Laura Thompson, Chris Best, John Link, Debbie Collins, Hannah Kankelfritz, Will Witt, Cassie Lip-ton, John Micol, Lisa McCurdy, Andrea Harris, and Ceil Matthews. In addition to these oversight servants, other volunteers in the Vacation Bible School and Sunday School programs carry out this mission of teaching God’s truth and love. These far-reaching Ministries deserve much recognition.

Let us honor these Ministries in three active ways this month:

- On Valentine’s Day, remind those you love [remembering to love your enemies as well as people close to you] about God’s truth, paying forward what you have learned. What better way to share love than by sharing the foundation of God’s salvation through Jesus!
- On Ash Wednesday, February 26, the beginning of Lent, make a vow to give up fear, disillusionment, and despair because God loves you, your family, and everyone. Ask that through Lent, your faith and hope in His love and compassion will see you through difficult times.
- Pray for the work of the oversight Christian Education ministries, the members and other volunteers.

Let us pray for this ministry and the people who make it happen:

Loving God of Pure Love, We praise you and thank you for teaching us your truth. Thank you for giving us your Son Jesus who continues to teach us through patient, persistent examples what it means to love, make disciples, and bring people to you. We praise you and thank you for the members of the Christian Education Ministries who take Jesus’ teachings seriously, striving to make sure that these teachings are spread within and outside your church, beginning with the little ones and moving throughout people of all ages. Guide members of these Ministries in their efforts to teach us about your truth and love. Open the hearts, minds, and souls of those who oversee, those who teach, and those who learn to your guidance and leading. Please bless members of these Ministries and their families each day so that they know you are truly with them. Let them be fully with you. Let them bask in your love. Let them be more and more like your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Come pray with us! The Prayer Ministry meets the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Clyde Walker Classroom (Parlor). We thank God for listening to our prayers, for all of His blessings; and, we pray for ministries in our church; for local, state, national, and global needs; as well as the people you have entrusted to us. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, February 19 at 6:30.**



NEW Wednesday Morning Bible Study Series

10:30am Wednesdays

Sabbath as Resistance - Saying No to the Culture of Now

Author Walter Brueggemann writes that the Sabbath is not simply about keeping rules but rather about becoming a whole person and restoring a whole society. He calls out our 24/7 society of consumption, a society in which we live to achieve, accomplish, perform, and possess. We want more, own more, use more, eat more, and drink more. Keeping the Sabbath allows us to break this restless cycle and focus on what is truly important: God, other people, all life. YOU are invited to join this study with Pastor Laura.

New Bible Study with Intern, Hannah Sipes

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30
beginning February 11

Come learn more about what it means to be a Methodist Christian!



Ash Wednesday Service ~ February 26 ~ 7:00 pm ~ In the Chapel

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a time when Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of 40 days of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. The service helps us to realize that both sin and death have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. During the service, Pastor Laura will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshipers. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins. The palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday service are burned to produce ashes. The ash cross on the forehead is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for sins.

UM Book of Worship

Pleasant Green Family News

Dear Pleasant Green,
Our family is so grateful for all the calls, prayers, food, cards, etc. following Mom's passing.
We really appreciated the food that was prepared for everyone after her service. And a special thanks to all of the ladies who put it together. It took a lot of time and preparation and meant a great deal to us.
Thank you again so very much. *The Family of Vannie Carter*

To all of the PG Church Family,
Just want to give thanks to the church, my family is really thankful for all of you that blessed us for the holidays. You brightened our Christmas, you are angels.
Thank you with all my heart, *Sandra Person*

Thanks to...

Van McCay & Pastor Laura (?)
making church plumbing repairs!



Jim & Gloria Perry for hanging
El Salvador Crosses in the Narthex



Moravian Love Feast ~ January 6

Thanks to all who helped with this special service!

- Becky Brogden (delicious buns),
- Evelyn Morris (coffee),
- Gloria Perry & Al Edens,
- Susan & TC Adams (servers),
- Ginger Link (coordinator), Aaron Carlyle (pianist)
- special music
- Terri & Wayne Leonard
- Camilla Davis & Steven Collins



Support UMCOR's Coffee & Chocolate Project

Organic Coffee - (ground) decaf & regular \$8 per bag

Organic Chocolate Bars - \$2.50

Dark Chocolate Almonds ~ Dark Caramel Crunch ~ Dark Mint ~ Dark Orange ~ Dark Ecuador ~ Dark Panama ~ Milk Chocolate ~ Milk Chocolate Caramel

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.



Please make checks to PGUMW.

Pleasant Greeners Lunch

(Lunch provided)

Wednesday, February 26 ~ Noon

Please join us for fun, fellowship & lunch!

Program: Families Moving Forward

Right here in Durham, there are families who need our help. Families without a place to live. Families with young children. Families in need.

Working together, we help provide families with children a stable, safe and loving environment while they are in the temporary crisis of homelessness. FMF now offers after school tutoring, educational enrichment programming, and early interventions to children residing in our shelter as part of a two-generation approach that aims to break the cycle of poverty in our community.

Thanks to the ongoing teamwork of loving volunteers and professional staff, our families become self-reliant members of the community who can then give back to others in need.

See Nancy Maloney for more info.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



7:00 pm - February 3
Eleanor Walker Circle

Tuesday, February 4

6:00 pm - Chicken Dumplings Dinner Meeting

7:00 pm - Worship Committee

Saturday, February 8 - All Welcome!

9:00 am - Connectional Table

Breakfast Provided!



The Hearts & Hands Class Please join us as we volunteer at the Murdoch Developmental Center in Butner **Sunday, February 9**. We will leave the church at 8:30 am in time to arrive for transporting the residents to the Center's Worship Service.



Dream Weavers Circle
Tuesday, February 11 at 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 15

Hurricane Relief Team Works in Lumberton

Prayer Team Meeting

6:30pm Wednesday, February 19



6:30 pm ~ Circle of Faith
meets at the home of Martha Walker

Saturday, February 22 ~ Common Thread

9:30 am - A Ministry to Comfort the Dying

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



Your Help is Needed!

Dumpling Dough Rolling



Sunday, February 23 after late Worship
(bring a sandwich)

Monday, February 24 at 6 pm

Youth group during 30 Hour Famine

Saturday, February 29 at 9 am

NEWS FOR ALL MEN

No UMM Breakfast in February
Look for news about a UMM Night OUT!



SAVE THE DATE!

YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us for an
Easter Egg Hunt
and Family Fun Day on

Saturday, April 4 ~ 10:00 am -12:00 pm

Easter Egg Hunt,

Bouncy House, Snacks,

Face Painting, Games

and a special visit with the Easter Bunny!



All Welcome! If you have thought about joining the choir at PGUMC, we'd love to have you! Music is a central part of worship, and if you feel you would like to contribute to our services in this way please consider joining us! Choir meets on Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm, occasionally later around the Palm Sunday or Christmas Cantata time. We will begin Palm Sunday cantata rehearsals in late January, so now is a great time to jump in! Blessings, Aaron

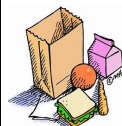


Around the District

February 7 - 8 Women's Retreat
at Orange UMC

The curriculum is based on Brené Brown's
"Rising Strong by Grace"

Fri: 6:30-9pm / Sat: 8:30am-3pm Childcare available



FOOD FOR ALL

This ministry for the Homeless & Working Poor of Orange County Needs YOU!

Groups within the church are encouraged to sponsor a FOOD FOR ALL night once a year.

Please sign up in the Narthex or contact the church office to help.

Cokesbury's VBS Workshop

Saturday, March 7 in Charlotte

9:00am-12:30pm & lunch is provided.

We will leave around 6:30am that morning to travel to Charlotte together.

Contact Wendy Anderson if interested: 919-630-1939



Request from Farmer Cindy...

Firefly Farm would like any unwanted vases, Mason jars, or other glass jars/objects to put flower arrangements in to sell at the Farmers Market. Please leave any donations in the Narthex.





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

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE PAID
Durham, NC 27705
Permit No. 5

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

Address Service Requested

Church E-mail: pgumc@ncrbiz.com

 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.*

CHICKEN DUMPLINGS DINNER

Saturday, March 7 ~ 4 - 7 pm at Pleasant Green UMC

This dinner is sponsored by the United Methodist Women but help is needed from all our church family so please mark your calendar!

Proceeds from this fundraiser and fellowship event are used for local & district missions.

UMW Valentine Fundraiser

Please support the UMW fundraiser by buying a 1LB. box of homemade Valentine chocolates for you or someone you really like!



ONLY \$9.00 PER BOX!

Order forms available in the Narthex or call the church office: 919-383-5764

PLEASE ORDER BY MON. FEBRUARY 3

Boxes may be picked up Sat. 2/8 from 1—2pm and Sun. 2/9 from 9:30am—noon

Pleasant Green Summer Camp Announces 2020 Schedule

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



Aaron Carlyle will be offering Beginning Piano Lessons, and Voice Lessons for all levels beginning in

Mid-January. Spots are available on Sunday afternoons prior to youth group, and a weekday evening may be added if needed. There are currently five 30-minute slots available. Typically lessons are 30 minutes each, with a total of 4 lessons per month. Lessons would take place in the choir room/Sanctuary. If you'd like to begin learning piano, or if you sing or would like to sing, speak with Aaron after church or email him at musicpgumc@gmail.com to ask any questions or discuss lesson specifics.

RONALD McDONALD FAMILY ROOM & PEDIATRIC UNIT AT DUKE HOSPITAL

Help family members & their children while at the hospital!

FAMILY NEEDS:

- Travel toiletries / Shower caps**
- Men: deodorant, shaving cream**
- Women: feminine products**
- Individual snacks**



RMHC®