



ROOTS & BRANCHES

FEBRUARY 2022



In her book, “Prayer in the Night,” Tish Harrison Warren tells the story of being covered in blood in an emergency room in the middle of the night. Feeling more like a gunshot victim than an

expectant mother, even the nurses admitted that this was way more blood than usual. In the chaos of that moment, Tish and her husband, both priests, began praying Compline. In short, Compline is a liturgy – a set of prayers that have been prayed by Christians for centuries. They aren’t new prayers. They are simply dependable words the church has offered to give order and rhythm to daily life. Bleeding on a hospital floor, Warren shared of her deep need to find her place in something much bigger than herself in that moment of crisis. On one of the darkest days of her life, she found herself tethered to the prayers of the church, and more so, the mystery of God and the reassurance of God’s goodness.

She writes,

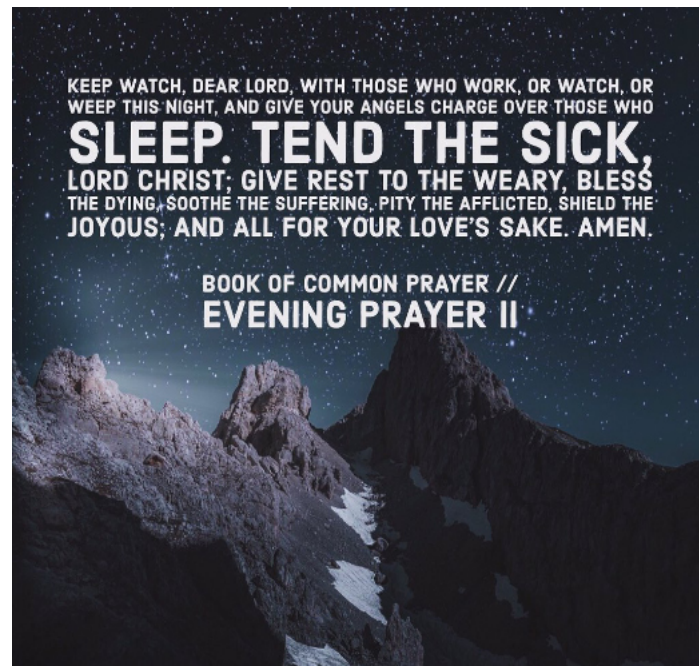
When I could not pray, the church said, ‘here are prayers.’ When I could not believe, the church said, ‘Come to the table and be fed.’ When I could not worship, the church sang over me the language of faith. Inherited ways of prayer and worship—liturgical practices—are a way that the ancient church builds cairns for us, to help us endure this mystery, to keep us on this path of faith, to guide us home.

If you were in church on the first Sundays of February, you heard me preach about and pray this prayer. Mainly, because this prayer has also become an anchor for me during this pandemic. In seasons of deep grief and during days when everything felt so uncertain and even scary, I needed something to pray beyond what I could conjure up for myself.

If you find yourself feeling your way through the darkness as we embark on a third year of living through a pandemic, perhaps now – more than ever – we need, not something new, but something quite old, even ancient. The prayers and the practices of the church to hold us, to keep us, to light our way.

Church, I am praying for you in these days. And I thank you for the ways you have held and prayed for me. And if ever the day comes when you aren’t sure if you can believe, simply come to the table and be fed. If the day comes when you aren’t sure if you can bring yourself to worship, we will sing the songs of faith over you. And if ever you cannot find the words to pray, we will offer our prayers on your behalf. Rest, beloved, for there is One who will keep watch over us in the night.

Laura



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Sunday’s @ 10:30am, in person or on our *live* [YouTube](#) stream.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

2022 Unified Budget	335,441.48
YTD Total Income to Operating Fund	18,932.12
YTD Operating Expenses	21,022.66
YTD Operating Fund Balance	-2,386.54
2021 Operating Fund Balance Forward	26,386.05
2022 Current Actual Operating Fund Balance	24,295.51
Current Building Mortgage Balance	188,573.09

WIFI CONNECTIONS

Upstairs:
 TP-Link 2.4Ghz- 80BA40
 TP-Link 2.4Ghz- 80BA39
more distance/slower connection
 TP-Link 5Ghz – 80BA39
less distance/faster connection
 Downstairs:
 MySpectrumWifi76- 2G
 MySpectrumWifi76- 5G
 Password - unionepic548

A huge THANK YOU to James & Mary Ann Hamm for donating a new and much needed refrigerator for our kitchen at PGUMC!

Administrative Council – Brief Update

The PGUMC Administrative Council convened for its first meeting of the year on Sunday afternoon, January 30th. In case you are unfamiliar with how we organize and structure ourselves as a church, our Administrative Council is simply our leadership structure or “governing body” that serves to advance the mission and ministry of the church as well as fulfill the administrative responsibilities of the church. In other words, our Council exists for a dual purpose: discipleship and stewardship. Our purpose is always grounded in our mission to make disciples, and secondly, we are called to be good stewards by overseeing human, financial, and physical resources of the church. In other words, all members of this committee serve in the capacity of a Trustee, a Finance Committee member, and a Staff Parish Relations Committee Member. In January, we met to align ourselves with our purpose and to give an overview of how we will give rhythm to our meetings throughout the year. Richard Cassidy is the Chair of the Administrative Council and other members include: Susan Adams, Diane Wingo, Ceil Matthews, James Hamm, Betsy Cassidy, Cindy Stubbs, Van McCay, Al Edens, Mike Quinn, and Gail Pruett. Unless there is a specific SPRC discussion, all meetings are open to all members of PGUMC.

Orange Cooperative Parish

Our group of Orange County churches, informally known as The Orange Cooperative Parish, are beginning to meet again to explore possibilities of collaboration in the future. As you may recall, this group has engaged in several community dinners together, studied the Art of Neighboring, sponsored a booth in Hillsborough for Last Fridays downtown, organized a Spiritual Care Package weekly & worshipped together during the pandemic, and even shared a full-time staff person for a year. If you are interested in joining, we are scheduled to have four bi-weekly meetings on Zoom at 12 noon (2/01, 2/15, 3/01, 3/15).

WELCOME!

Harper Nicole Griffin
 Daughter of Dylon & Anna Griffin
 and great granddaughter of
 Patsy & Wayne Stranger.
 Born on January 22, weighing
 7 pounds and 14 ounces.





2022 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 20-24!

February 20th planning session for all adult volunteers interested in helping with VBS! If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to help, contact Wendy Anderson at 919.630.1939 or wen_a@nc.rr.com.

SUMMER CAMP 2022

Pleasant Green Summer Camp Announces 2022 Schedule!

Week #1: June 20 - 24 VBS 9 am - 12:30 pm

Week #2: June 27 - 30 Mon - Thurs

Closed: July 4 - July 8

Week #3: July 11 - 15 Chestnut Ridge Traveling Camp at PGUMC

Week #4: July 18 - 22



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

If you're interested in teaching our children, please click to see available dates and sign up [HERE!](#)



NEW PGUMC VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

As part of a plan to better organize and simplify, we have created a google sheet for our volunteers and helpers to easily sign up for different things within our church.

When you click the link, you'll see dates listed until the end of March. Tabs at the bottom for Ushers/Greeters, another for acolytes, and another for Children's church. Just type your name in to sign-up! We will also print have a hard copy in the Narthex for people to manually sign up.

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<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10E6oU37l5qex83-B3gvL8g6LnsdRleaEEwliBNz44n8/edit?usp=sharing>

ACOLYTES

We are excited to announce that we are bringing our Acolytes back to worship services! Our goal is to have Acolyte participation on Sunday, March 6th, the first Sunday in Lent.

Training/retraining sessions for all who are interested and in 2nd grade or older will be Thursday, February 24th at 4:30 pm during afterschool and Saturday, February 26th at 12:30 pm. If your child will be participating, please contact Gloria Perry (perryjames@twc.com or 919-971-0924) to let her know which session they will attend or if you need to arrange another time.



Youth is officially back! This fall, we gathered together a couple times in order to begin to rebuild community with one another. We have celebrated the advent season together, participated in a nativity escape room (led by Wendy Anderson), and have been surrounded and present with one another in games, conversations and prayer. It was encouraging to see all the youth together again after the pandemic, faithful to the ministry of Pleasant Green.

This spring we are going into weekly programming with a few other things thrown in the midst! We are excited to gather together again starting **February 6th from 4-6 pm**. After that, we will be doing a three week on / one week off format— taking a break the last weekend of the month. Each week of the month may be different so make sure to check Remind for weekly details.

***Register for Remind:** Text @pgumcyo to 81010.

***New Youth email:** pgumcyouth3005@gmail.com.

February 19: Parents night out! 5-8 pm

The youth will host your children with supervision from Cindy Stubbs, her husband Paul and Emily Robbian. Dinner will be provided as well as games, activities and a movie. Masks will be required and social distancing will be practiced while eating.

April 29-30: World Vision's 30 Hour Famine!

The youth will be participating in the World Vision's 30 Hour Famine to learn about the issue of hunger in the surrounding community and around the world and will be collecting donations to help stop hunger and food insecurities. We will be making sleeping places out of cardboard so if you have any larger cardboard please save it and begin to collect it for this event. More details soon.

YOUTH: Help us get to know you better with this google form: <https://forms.gle/qkPhdeuCG66Xifzm9>

PARENTS: We could use some help with meals for the kids on Sunday evenings. Please check out the MEAL TRAIN Signup sheet if you're able to sponsor a meal for the youth. <https://mealtrain.com/k1qmn2>





Youth ministry is a passion of mine and I am proud of the group of students who make an effort to gather when we have programming. We all are beginning to build or rebuild relationships with one another and I am excited to see where Pleasant Green Youth will continue to grow in making disciples of Jesus Christ who will transform the world. I would not be able to do this by myself. I want to thank all the youth parents and volunteers who have helped rebuild and be a part of this group of people. Thanks to Matt & Julie McCay, Matt & Mindy Vukmer, Richard & Betsy Cassidy, and Wendy Anderson. You all rock! I pray that God continues to be present with Pleasant Green Youth and all of the ministries that take place at Pleasant Green Church.

With grace, Emily Robbian



FEBRUARY

		1 ORANGE COOPERATIVE PARISH 12 pm, Zoom (pg 3) <i>Sandy Quinn</i> <i>Ruby Dawn Leonard</i>	2 BIBLE STUDY 10 am, Zoom CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:30 pm <i>Adam Bell</i> <i>Chloe Whitfield</i> <i>Charlotte Whitfield</i>	3 NAMI: STORIES OF HOPE 7 pm, Zoom (pg 10) <i>Joey Berini</i> <i>Chris Martin</i> <i>Patricia Robinson</i>	4	5	
6 EL SALVADOR MEETING 11:30 am (pg 11) YOUTH 4-6 pm, PGUMC (pg 5) <i>John DuLaney</i> <i>Bobby Parrish</i> <i>Jeremy Whitford</i>	7	8 READ & SEED 6:30 pm, Zoom (pg 8)	9 BIBLE STUDY 10 am, Zoom CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:30 pm <i>Abby D Schoenfeld</i> <i>Larry Flannery</i> <i>Charles Weaver</i>	10 DREAM WEAVERS 6 pm NAMI: STORIES OF HOPE 7 pm, Zoom (pg 10) <i>Piper Baker</i>	11 <i>Nancy Tilley</i> <i>Collin Johnson</i>	12	
13 YOUTH 4-6 pm, PGUMC (pg 5) <i>Becky Link</i> <i>Tim Fowler</i> <i>Nancy Dixon</i> <i>Wendy Anderson</i>	14 ELEANOR WALKER CIRCLE UMW BOOK CLUB 6 pm, Zoom (pg 8) PRAISE BAND PRACTICE 7:15 pm <i>Susan Bell</i> <i>Kathryn Dempsey</i> 	15 ORANGE COOPERATIVE PARISH 12 pm, Zoom (pg 3) <i>David LaBarre</i> <i>Dennis Nicholson</i> <i>Emma Linthicum</i>	16 BIBLE STUDY 10 am, Zoom PRAYER MINISTRY 6:30 pm (pg 10) CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:30 pm	17 CIRCLE OF FAITH 6:30 pm NAMI: STORIES OF HOPE 7 pm, Zoom (pg 10)	18	19 PARENTS NIGHT OUT! 5-8 pm Babysitting by the Youth Group (pg 5) <i>Will Witt</i> <i>Elizabeth W Dehmer</i>	
20 VBS PLANNING MEETING 11:30 am (pg 4) YOUTH DINNER OUT!	<i>Presidents' Day</i> 21 PRAISE BAND PRACTICE 7:15 pm <i>Scott Walker</i> <i>Dwayne Marlowe</i>	22 <i>Hudson Link</i> <i>Elizabeth Link Jacks</i> <i>Josephine McCarter</i> <i>Marie Meier</i>	23 BIBLE STUDY 10 am, Zoom CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:30 pm	24 ACOLYTE TRAINING 4:30 pm (pg 4) NAMI: STORIES OF HOPE 7 pm, Zoom (pg 10) <i>Peter Gilbane</i>	25 <i>Ella Fisher</i> <i>Dean Overaker</i>	26 COMMON THREAD 9:30 am ACOLYTE TRAINING 4:30 pm (pg 4)	
27 PRAISE BAND SUNDAY NO YOUTH THIS WEEK <i>T. C. Adams</i>	28 <i>Julie Poe</i> <i>Erin Bracey</i>	SUNDAY SCHEDULE Worship Service 10:30 am Children's Church During Worship, Old Sanctuary Clyde Walker Sunday School 9:15 am, Zoom https://nccumc.zoom.us/j/95216612160					

Looking for a Lenten Devotional?

Here are a few suggestions that I (Laura) will be using this season to incorporate into my daily life.

1. “Unrevealed Until Its Season: A Lenten Journey with Hymns” by James C. Howell

Author James Howell believes in the power of song to teach spiritual truths. “Hymns embed faith into the marrow of the soul,” he writes. In *Unrevealed Until Its Season*, Howell takes us on a 40-day journey through well-loved hymns.

2. “Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals For a Life of Imperfection” by Kate Bowler

In these gorgeously written reflections, Bowler and Richie offer fresh imagination for how truth, beauty, and meaning can be discovered amid the chaos of life. Their words celebrate kindness, honesty, and interdependence in a culture that rewards ruthless individualism and blind optimism. Ultimately, in these pages we can rest in the encouragement to strive for what is possible today—while recognizing that though we are finite, the life in front of us can be beautiful.

Laura along with several other women from the Dream Weavers circle will be meeting weekly to discuss. If interested, please contact Laura for details.

3. “Full to the Brim” – a Lenten Devotional that will coincide with worship themes created and written by the Sanctified Art Team

These daily reflections are written by the creators of Sanctified Art and coincide with the themes in worship each week. If you are interested in receiving a digital copy in PDF format, please email Laura.

4. The Upper Room Disciplines 2022

This is a resource that I particularly admire because it is rooted in the texts from the Lectionary. Reading this devotional is a great way to prepare for worship each week. A diverse group of 52 Christian thought leaders each contribute a week of topical devotions that reveal something new about God and humanity, sin and grace, revelation and humility, individual discipleship and life in community.

READ & SEED

Meeting on **February 8th at 6:30 pm on Zoom** to discuss *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. Join our Zoom Meeting here: <https://nccumc.zoom.us/j/99801109814> and email Cindy at fireflyfarm2015@gmail.com for questions.

2022 Slow Read Book

Challenge yourself to pick up that big book that you’ve been wanting to read! Read it slowly—only a few pages a day (total number of pages in the book divided by 365) and don’t let it overwhelm the other things you want to read. We’ll plan to discuss our slow reads at the January 2023 meeting!

Little Free Library

Our project for 2022—Starting a little library outside at church. This would be a good way to encourage others to read and to share the books that we have! Terri Leonard had a Little Free Library at The N&O! Read about here: <https://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/counties/wake-county/article10044107.html>

UMW BOOK CLUB

We are excited about our new Book Club! The Club will read books from the Reading Program List and will meet on the second Monday of each month from 7-8 pm. See the book choices for the upcoming discussions below.

- Feb 14 - *Eleanor: A Spiritual Biography* by Harold Ivan Smith
- March 14- *When Others Shuddered* by Jamie Janoz
- April 11 - *Love is the Way* by Bishop Michael Curry
- May 9 - *The House on Lowell Street* by Linda A. Keane
- June 13 - *Girl Gone Missing* by Marcie R. Rendon

The book discussions will be facilitated by Jeanne Murray. Jeanne is a wonderful United Methodist Woman, a Lay Speaker and a retired English teacher. To receive the ZOOM link for the discussions, please send an email to NCCUMW.Webmaster@gmail.com.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the handmade beautiful pillow case for my mother, Sara Bowden. We received it last week and it has already been placed on her pillow. Your gift is such a kind gesture. It is a source of comfort for my father and our family to know others care during this difficult time. Thank you again.

Beth Welch (Charles’ aunt)

Dear Pleasant Green,

The second greatest gift God has given us may be the church. Sheila and I have been overwhelmed with your support. The visits and cards have been great for the morale around here. Since my injury, having you step up with transportation, picking up supplies and helping with pets have kept a tough situation manageable. We are so thankful for the food, cleaning and the restoration of our fence at a time we can’t do it for ourselves. We really appreciate the concern folks show checking in on us. And the gifts as I stepped down from managing the praise band were welcome, generous, and timelier than you can know. We appreciate the streaming service while we can’t drive. Thank-you for being our church family.

Dave Cook

TRAVELING WORSHIP IN JANUARY

We started the New Year off with a visit to Foy Hunt on January 2, 2022. Foy is now living at Calyx Living Center in Durham. Visitors are allowed, as long as their protocols are followed—complete a questionnaire, obtain a visitor pass, and meet in a designated area. Foy was in good spirits and happy to have visitors. She says she is adjusting well to life at Calyx. “It is not home, but is a safe place at this time of life”, says Foy. Since we did not have Communion at church that Sunday, we had a good, long chat about PGUMC news. We did make our visit later in the day at Foy’s request to avoid interfering with her

JANUARY BLOOD DRIVE

Thank you to all those who donated and volunteered for our January Blood Drive. We collected 42 units of life saving blood! We’re also happy to report that the Red Cross has initiated a substantial pay increase for their collection team members and we appreciate all their hard work.

Our next will be March 24th! Volunteers and donors needed! To sign up, contact the Church office at 919.383.5764 or pgumc@ncrrbiz.com or go to redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: Pleasant Green)



Dennis Nicholson

lunchtime. We are finding that visiting right after church is not a good time for anyone, so that will be changed to a better time in the near future. Mike has been going with me, but there has not been much participation from others. Selecting a different time/date seems best and more people can participate.

Please note: Traveling Worship will be paused during February and March due to Covid concerns. In the meantime, those who feel safe to visit are encouraged to visit, call, or send cards to our home bound members. We need to keep them included in the life of PGUMC. Thanks be to God for visitation ministry! *Sandy Quinn.*



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.

Jeremiah 10:23

Groundhog Day...a Way to Surrender

During the month of February, we typically focus on Valentine's Day, which has a lot of love and giving associated with it. One holiday that we often overlook or make fun of is Groundhog Day, when Phil, the groundhog, comes out of his burrow to look for his shadow.

In fact, the movie Groundhog's Day is based on this story: TV weatherman Phil Connors (played by Bill Murray) has to go yet again to Punxsutawney, Pa. on February 2 to see if Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow. It isn't his idea of fun. He is grumpy with his segment producer Rita and downright nasty with cameraman Larry. He doesn't take the shadow business at all seriously but the next morning, awakens to find he is reliving the same day. Initially disbelieving and fighting what is happening to him, Phil eventually accepts that he will relive the same day over and over again. He uses the opportunity to acquire new skills - piano playing and ice carving among them - and soon becomes the most admired man in Punxsutawney. However, just how many times he relives the day is anyone's guess. — garykmc: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0107048/plotsummary/>

If we look at this movie more carefully, we see that the weatherman eventually surrenders to his situation. He makes the best of it, learning and growing, without knowing what the future holds. I sometimes find myself grumpy and stuck when facing tedious, repetitive situations (Continuing covid, masks, social distancing, concern about our children and schools anyone?). And yet, Jesus is waiting for me to surrender to him. When I remember to do that, letting him guide my path, I truly do feel like a new creation. I feel lighter, freer, more optimistic, and outward-looking. Instead of focusing on me and what I do not have, Jesus shows me that helping others is a blessing and uplifting.

Perhaps we can all pray when we are feeling stuck, grumpy, and disbelieving...Dear Father, help us be more like your son and the weatherman. Help us surrender to you first for guidance; then, give us the focus, purpose and determination to overcome our own distress to focus on others who need help. Amen

**The Prayer Ministry will meet Wednesday, February 16th at 6:30 pm in person or by free telephone conference. You may also contact Gail at pruettg4mh@gmail.com. Please join us! We would love to share God's love with you as we pray for others.*

MENTAL HEALTH CORNER

Need some tips on managing College stress or anxiety?

You are not alone! [Click here for a recording of the January 19th workshop](#) which offers helpful information for college students about how to manage stress/anxiety when overwhelmed.



Stories of Hope...

Hear inspiring stories on Zoom each Thursday in February. Click [HERE](#) for more information on these stories and how to connect!

SUPPORT UMCOR'S COFFEE & CHOCOLATE PROJECT

Fair trade 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. *For sale in the Parlor*

12 oz Ground Coffee Bags, \$8

Mind Body Soul Regular or Decaf

Organic Chocolate bars, \$2.50

Dark Chocolate Almond & sea salt (55%)

Dark Chocolate Caramel Crunch & sea salt

Dark Chocolate Mint Crunch (67%)

Panama Extra Dark Chocolate (80%)

Dark Chocolate Orange (65%)

Very Dark Chocolate (71%)

Milk Chocolate

Milk Chocolate Caramel Crunch & sea salt

Chocolate with Coconut Milk (55%)



UMCOR is responding to the deadly tornadoes moving through several states. As the massive storm systems continue to move across the country, we ask for your immediate response in prayer and financial support. Please be there for survivors by supporting UMCOR US Disaster Response with a gift today.

Checks can be made out to PGUMC with UMCOR on the memo line.



ORANGE CONGREGATIONS IN MISSION

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

Any monetary donations towards OCIM operating expenses or Meals On Wheels are also appreciated.



We'll have a meeting in the parlor on February 6th after the 10:30 am worship service for those interested in going to El Salvador the summer of 2022. We will discuss dates, fund raisers and more! If you have any questions please contact Jim Perry at perryjames@twc.com.

FMF DONATIONS NEEDED!

Collected in the Narthex

New comforters, twin/full

New pillows

Pine Sol

Dish soap

Toilet paper

Paper towels



2022 CSA Season is May 17 – October 25!

Get 20 weeks of healthy, all natural produce over a 24-week period. Foods are non GMO and are free of pesticides, herbicides, artificial hormones and other atrocities.

Choose from a full share, small share or bi-weekly share for the season. Perfect for those who like to cook and prepare ahead!

Check out the website and signup! www.springforest.org



Pick up in Hillsborough (1907 New Sharon Church Road) or ask Nancy Maloney to drop your box off at PGUMC on Tuesdays. 603.370.2477. More information is available in the Narthex!

Pleasant Green *United Methodist Church*



PleasantGreenUMC.org | pgumc@ncrrbiz.com | 919.383.5764

Pastor

Rev. Laura Thompson
lthompson@nccumc.org
919.383.2339

Duke Intern

Emily Robbian
emily.robbian@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

Amazon Smile 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>

Blood Drive

March 24th at PGUMC



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)

PLEASE
RECYCLE