



Pleasant Green *United Methodist Church*

PleasantGreenUMC.org

Roots & Branches

January 2020



'Tis the season for good food, gathering with family and friends, special worship services, and now at a new year – fireworks, music, parties, and ball drops (or pickle or possum drops if you find yourself in Eastern NC!) It is indeed a season of celebration, which is a welcomed occasion in the midst of a dark and dreary time of the year. I have never been a big “New Year’s Resolution” kind of a person, but I do appreciate any occasion to reflect and give thanks. As we peel off yet another month on our calendars, I have been reflecting a bit on what I am celebrating in the life of our community at Pleasant Green UMC. I’d like to share a few of those things with you so you can join me in the joy and ministry we share together:

The **generosity** I witnessed this Advent season. Because of the generous hearts of those in this community, every child in a family of 9 received food and bikes this Christmas; 830 diapers were delivered to the diaper bank; \$300 gifted to a family in need from UMM; \$400 given to Families Moving Forward, an organization in Durham that helps families in the crisis of homelessness find their way home; \$350 given to a family who lost a young child this year; \$100 given to an Afterschool family; over \$600 from the discretionary fund to help people with power bills and temporary housing this holiday season; food given to families at Stanford Middle School; and another successful Mission Market!

Capital Improvements: We now have a new lighting system in the sanctuary, new countertops in all the bathrooms, a new stove and dishwasher in the kitchen. Thank you to all who help maintain our physical space and contribute to the upkeep of our beautiful property.

The lives of the saints who now rest from their labors on this side of life: Ruby Martin, Martha Adams, Vannie Carter, and Dan Wheeler.

Hurricane Relief Work: I am so excited to see the energy and commitment of people who have volunteered to be a part of rebuilding of homes to hurricane victims in Eastern NC. Each month, beginning in January, we will be sending a team of people to work in communities still suffering from the damage of Hurricane Matthew and Florence. Many thanks for Jim Perry for organizing these efforts.

Open and willing spirits – Sounds cliché right? But, it is a gift to be part of a community that continues to keep an open heart and mind about what is possible for our church. Currently, the newest formed young women’s circle (Dream Weavers) is working on a family day around Easter and will, in the process, be re-vamping some old traditions. Our Trustees and Administrative Council have given the green light for us to explore the possibility of creating a walking trail on our church property. We completed one year of our new church structure, which has required some flexibility from all of us. We continue to be a people willing to worship together (and at different times) throughout our calendar year depending on the season. It is not easy to be flexible and compatible, and our willingness to try new things ought to be celebrated!

The “Thriving in Ministry” inaugural clergy women program funded by Lily Endowment in partnership with Millsaps College. Part of the requirements for this program is monthly meetings with a clergy cohort in addition to attending 3 retreats over the course of 2020. In March, I will spend 4 days at a retreat center in Mexico; in April I will spend 4 days at a monastery in Quebec, and in October we will retreat together in Germany.

New ways to connect with PGUMC. In August, we introduced a new way to tithe with an online giving option on our website. We have also created an app for our church so that you can keep up with us throughout your week on your mobile device. And lastly, we have added a podcast tab to our website so you can stay connected even if you miss a Sunday.

The Orange Cooperative Parish – The pastors and churches of Northern Orange county have continued to consistently meet throughout 2019. These gatherings have been a source of renewal and comradery. In addition to monthly gatherings among the clergy, we hosted 3 dinners this fall that included lay people and have also set aside 3 Saturdays throughout 2020 to include more participation from our congregations. Our connection is a gift and we hope to build on the foundation of trust, community, and dreams that have been laid so far this year.

Friends, this is by no means an exhaustive list. There are many things that continue to bless the lives of those within and beyond our church that have gone unnamed. Nonetheless, as I take this opportunity to reflect a moment at the turn of a new year, I am holding close some of those passages we read from Isaiah throughout the Advent season. I pray as we enter a new year, that “everlasting joy be upon our heads, that we might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isa 35:10).

I continue to give thanks for our life together. Merry Christmas! And Happy New Year! *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.

Summer Browning Scholarships

In memory of Summer Browning, a scholarship fund was established in 1993 by her parents, family & friends.



Please email the church office for applications and return by January 15.



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

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 Eastern NC locations will be Lumberton & Fayetteville. Our first Saturday work detail will be in Lumberton on **January 18** followed by **February 15, April 18** & in Fayetteville on **March 14**.

If anyone wishes to join the team please contact Jim Perry at: perryjames@twc.com.

Hurricane Relief Team Meeting
Tuesday, January 7 at 7:00 pm

Thank you to ...

James & Mary Ann Hamm for the purchase of a new kitchen dishwasher!
And to James & Al Edens for installing!



DO YOU LOVE TO READ? Sign up in the Narthex!

Forming now: a small group that loves reading with **Goal:** to get people together who love to read, discussing books and just spending time together in each other's homes once a month.

Books: to be chosen by the group members with only **Requirements:** a love of reading!!

Meeting time: to be determined - please suggest days/times that work for you!

Questions: Contact Cindy Stubbs at fireflyfarm2015@gmail.com



Looking for a healthy start to the new year?

Orange County Public Library has two series you may be interested in.

Yoga for Health Aging is a six-week series that starts January 19. Classes will be on Sundays and then repeat on Thursday, so you can choose which class is more convenient for you. Each week will explore physical yoga postures that can be practiced to improve balance, range of motion, muscular strength and bone health. The session will also explore mindfulness practices that improve resiliency when adapting to changing conditions. The physical practices will be modified to meet the needs and capabilities of the group, including options for practice from a chair (chair yoga) as required.

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.

Not sure if you're interested? Here are a couple of chances to "try out" before the classes get started:

Yoga for a Healthy Spine – 1 hour class January 9, 2020

As we age, our bodies become less elastic. If we don't consciously maintain our flexibility and range of motion, we become less mobile, making everyday tasks more difficult. This class explores the 7 types of movement of the spine, and offers a take-home set of practices to maintain or regain a healthy range of motion.

Grounding & Centering: Tools for Managing Stress and Anxiety – 2 hour workshop January 12, 2020

This workshop will teach practices using physical postures, breath, sound and visualization for managing stress and reducing anxiety.

See Terri Leonard if you want more information.



Foy Hunt enjoyed singing along!



Mary Westmoreland



Mary Lou Mitchell

**8 YOUTH &
7 ADULTS WENT
CHRISTMAS
CAROLING ON
DECEMBER 8**



Elaine Flannery

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 pod-bean 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.

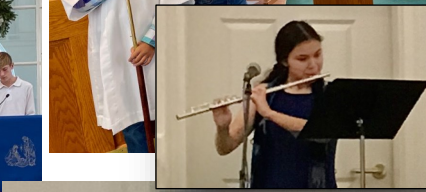
Youth resumes on
Sunday, January 19 at 5:00 pm.



PG Youth
enjoy
Christmas
Party
with
HUMC
Youth!



YOUTH SUNDAY



Lighting the Advent Wreath

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

You may have wondered why lately there has been so much emphasis on using refillable bottles rather than bottled water and reusable grocery bags rather than the throw-away ones. Until about two years ago, the United States was shipping tons of plastic trash to poor East Asian countries. When those countries realized that our trash in their landfills was releasing greenhouse gases that can leak toxic fluid into groundwater and that burning our trash can have serious public health effects, as carcinogenic or neurotoxic emissions, they stopped accepting much of the trash we were sending them.

Because we had a long reliance on international markets for our waste, our industries weren't geared to use recycled material. Many municipalities have cut back on their recycling programs since exporting trash has become difficult. Producers have never been held responsible for how their packaging products will be disposed of so they have continued to use non-recyclable packaging rather than explore other options.

Many of us are old enough to remember the movie "The Graduate" where Dustin Hoffman is told the future is in plastics. But due to the environmental crisis we are facing, the goal is to drastically cut down on the amount of plastic produced and used.

Two states have banned polystyrene foam; seven states have banned the use of plastic bags. Many states are considering banning single-use consumer products and increasing the availability of reusable and recyclable alternatives.

There are also things individuals can do. Reusable water bottles and grocery bags are popular promotional items. If you have extra water bottles and reusable grocery bags, put them in the box in the narthex to share with those who are willing to start filling their own water bottle and carrying reusable bags to the grocery but need some. You can also buy relatively inexpensive metal drinking straws. Many restaurants are beginning to use compostable carry-out containers. When you see your favorite restaurant doing so, commend them.

In the long run, our nation's responsibility to take care of our own trash instead of dumping it in poor countries will make us be more accountable and more willing to sacrifice convenience for conservation of resources.



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...



Welcoming in the New Year through the Membership and Hospitality Ministries

Romans 12:13 – Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home.

1 Peter 4: 8-10 – Above all, show sincere love to each other, because love brings about the forgiveness of many sins.

Open your homes to each other without complaining. And, serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse gifts.

What better way to welcome the New Year than to pray for the ministry at Pleasant Green that welcomes people into our church, helping them become family! The Membership and Hospitality Ministries does just that! In addition to keeping membership records, members of this ministry communicate with active and non-active members. They also develop ways to invite others into the mission and ministries of Pleasant Green. Led ably by Kathy DuLaney, members Pastor Laura, JoAnna, Susan Adams, Gail Pruet, Terri Leonard, who needed to leave us, and Gretchen Hutt, who moved away, have spent the past year creating and distributing green notebooks for new regular attenders who may want to become members and learn more about our church. The notebooks contain information about Sunday school classes, ministries, worship services, childcare, the layout of the church, and much more. This ministry notices who is missing from church services and sends "we miss you" cards so that people know they are not forgotten. They also send newsletters, post cards, and special letters to people who have not been seen in a while, inviting them to holiday services and activities. This behind-the-scenes ministry shows God's love to new and long-standing alike.

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

Loving God who welcomes us into your warm, compassionate embrace, help us do the same for people who you bring to your church...whether they are new or long-standing, active or lost. Help us touch the hearts of strangers so they become family. Help us to provide them with information, as you provide your Disciples with information, so they become familiar and comfortable with your ways. Help us live as the Father of the Lost Son lived, showing his prodigal son love and compassion when he returned home (Luke 15: 11-32); a family member who was lost and is now found.

We praise you and are grateful for the Membership and Hospitality Ministry members, who have listened to your call; showing the rest of us what it means to be welcoming. Thank you for their work in keeping your love and your church in the awareness of those who cannot attend, for whatever reason. And, thank you for their work in keeping your love and your church in the awareness of people you bring to us as newcomers. We praise you for giving us your Son, who shows us the way in caring for strangers. Help the members of the Membership and Hospitality Ministries and the rest of us strive to follow Him more fully. 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, January 15 at 6:30.



ADVENT Decorating





Children's Nativity



Pleasant Green Family News

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

It is with humble hearts that we thank you for your support of our Backpack Family Christmas. With great joy I report that all 9 children received clothes and shoes. In addition 1 tricycle, 2 scooters with helmets, 4 bikes with helmets, a doll house, and an American Girl doll. There was a gift card to Walmart for the parent and a gift card to Food Lion to help with food over the holiday.



Backpack Family Christmas

Blessings, Mary Ann Hamm on behalf of the Eleanor Walker Circle

We welcome new Acolytes!



Levi Leamer



**Madilyn Keatts
& Piper Baker**

CONGRATULATIONS to

**Callie
Totten
&
Michael
Spirovich
married
at
PGUMC
on
12/14!**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



7:00 pm - January 6
Eleanor Walker Circle

Hurricane Relief Team meets on January 7
at 7:00 pm in the Parlor



Dream Weavers Circle
Tuesday, January 7 at 7:00 pm

Orange County Churches Good Neighbor Project
Saturday, January 11 at 9am - 5 pm



This project was started by the
Missional Wisdom Foundation
(google for more info). The basic

program is for pastors and four lay people to be
trained together at three "lab" sessions over the next year
and then to bring the material back to their churches to
learn together in small groups. There will be a curriculum,
and a local moderator will lead us. The dates for
these "labs" are:

January 11 (from 9-5), May 2 (from 9-5),
and August 29 (a half-day celebration plus dinner).

See Pastor Laura if you are interested.

Sunday, January 12 at 12:15pm
All Ladies Invited!
United Methodist Women's Lunch



Prayer Team Meeting
6:30pm Wednesday, January 15

Circle of Faith meet at Radius
6:30 pm - Thursday, January 16



Saturday, January 18
Hurricane Relief Team Works in Lumberton
9:30 am - Common Thread
A Ministry to Comfort the Dying
All are welcome to come help - cut, pin,
iron or sew!

Sunday, January 19
United Methodist Men's Breakfast
12:15 pm Christian Education Meeting



Request from Farmer Cindy...

Firefly Farm would like any un-
wanted 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.

January 2020 Dates to Remember

Sunday, January 5

8:30 am - Hearts & Hands Class will join
Jim & Gene Perry to volunteer at the Murdoch
Center. All are invited to join them!

Moravian Love Feast on Epiphany Sunday
at 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 12

8:30 am Worship Services resume


MUSICAL SERVICE WITH TRUTH BE TOLD

On Praise Band Sunday, January 26, we will have a guest
band and special service of music and inspiration. To de-
scribe their music take folks like Arlo Guthrie, Bob Dyl-
an, Cat Stevens, and James Taylor, fill them with the
Holy Spirit and you have Truth Be Told from King, NC.

Everyone is invited for brunch at 9:30 am followed
by one special service at 10:30am.
Please invite family & friends!

CONCERT FOR EL SALVADOR

at Pleasant Green Community Center

To celebrate Dave Cook's 60th birthday 
The Thursday Night Band will be hosting a
dinner concert to benefit the Pleasant Green El Salvador
Mission Team on Friday, January 31st.

Please come enjoy a baked spaghetti dinner provided by
the mission team, listen to great music, open your heart
and make donations to the amazing Pleasant Green
Mission Team, working to make lives better in
Central America.

Dinner starts at 6:30 with music at 7- 8:30.
Yes - there will be cake!

Sunday, January 19 ~Human Relations Day Offering

Honor the Christ-child and make a difference in someone's
life! Just as the Magi honored the Christ child with gifts, we honor
the Savior by sharing with others. One way is by giving a special
Christmas contribution to Human Relations Day offering. This
offering helps church-based community developers work in racial-
and ethnic-minority communities in the United States and
Puerto Rico. It also ensures a second chance for youth offenders.

The 1972 General Conference established Human Relations Day to
"recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as
human beings in relationship with each other." Every one of God's children
deserves justice and equality. Every one of God's children deserves to open
doors to success.





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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.*

 **830 Diapers**
 were collected and delivered to the Diaper Bank!

 **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.

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






 *Please bring gifts of food for OCIM on Epiphany Sunday.*

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

CHILDREN NEEDS:
 New clothing only
 Sizes (Preemie – 18 yrs.)
 T-shirts, Comfy pants
 Socks, Underwear
 Any Boy outfits/Girl dresses
 Onesie(Snap front / bottom)



Moravian Love Feast on Epiphany Sunday, January 5, 2020 ~ 6:00 p.m.

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