

**ROOTS &
BRANCHES**
JULY 2022



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Sunday Music

The choir is on break for the summer and will resume rehearsals on August 31. For Sundays in July, all are invited to sing. Join Duane in the sanctuary at 10 am to run through the hymns before service.

July 3, *America, the Beautiful*
 July 10, *Whispering Hope*
 July 17 & 24, TBD

Worship Service

Sunday's 10:30 am IN PERSON / [LIVE STREAM](#)

Children's Church

During Worship, Old Sanctuary

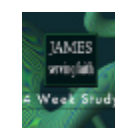
Clyde Walker Sunday School Class

9:15 am, In-Person or [ZOOM](#)

NEW Sunday School Class

9:45 am, In-Person– Seekers Room #217. All ages welcome.

THE WORD Sunday School Class, 9:15 am, In-Person or [ZOOM](#)

 Come for a power walk with God's Word on Sunday mornings. Andrea Harris and Kathryn Dempsey will host a Sunday school class based on the Bible. Verse by verse, and expound to each other wisdom and understanding– a 4 week study. (No class for July 10)

PG SUMMER CAMP

July 11 - 15:  *Chestnut Ridge Traveling Camp*
July 18 - 22: *Fun in the Sun!*

Summer Camp Registration link:
<https://bit.ly/PGsummercamp>

Please consider volunteering the week of Camp Chestnut Ridge Traveling Camp at PGUMC. Contact Wendy, JoAnna or Susan

FINANCIAL UPDATE

2022 Unified Budget	335,441.48
YTD Total Income to Operating Fund	128,989.41
TTD Operating Expenses	144,676.18
YTD Operating Fund Balance	-15,686.77
2021 Operating Fund Balance Forward	26,386.05
2022 Current Actual Operating Fund Balance	10,699.28
Current Building Mortgage Balance	169,964.42

Dear Pleasant Green Family,

We have so much to be thankful for and so many people to thank. Thank-you for all the gifts for our precious new grandson Daniel. We appreciate it so much and Grey and Bree needed the support. You have taken good care of them.

We are so grateful for all the support as Sheila lives with ALS. Thank-you for the friends who stay with Sheila when Dave needs to go out. Thank-you for the gang of women who come repeatedly to help Dave with the household chores. Thank-you for cards reminding Sheila she is not forgotten. Thank-you again for the wheelchair ramp. It has been invaluable. And now Sheila has a power wheelchair which she loves riding in the yard.

The spirit of Christ lives at Pleasant Green,
 Dave and Sheila Cook

DANIEL GREY COOK

Breanna & Grey Cook leaving the hospital with Daniel at 3 days old. He was born June 16. Daniel is the grandson of Sheila & Dave Cook.




The Bentons- Jeremy, Rachel, Eliza Jane & Wyatt visited Pleasant Green on their free Sunday between appointments. Jeremy served at PG as a Duke Intern and Rachel as our youth minister. We send them our love and prayers in their new appointments at in Greensboro.

PLEASANT GREEN UMC PRESENTS

REEL JUSTICE

A Community Film Series

July 10 & 31, 5:00 - 7:15 pm

 Pleasant Green UMC

Join us for popcorn, drinks, and roundtable discussion as we engage with contemporary issues of justice through the art of cinema.

Together, we will try to better understand the complexities associated with these issues and learn how we as Christians might be called to respond.

July 10 **13th** **Rated TV MA by Ava DuVernay

July 31 **TBD**

** Childcare available upon request **
pgumcyouth3005@gmail.com

JULY 24: DURHAM BULLS GAME



All are invited to the Durham Bulls Baseball Game!

Tickets are \$10 per person and the game begins at 5:05 pm.

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/ig1xhVVE3zX6udB77>

AUG 7: PGUMC SUMMER RETREAT

Meet us at Firefly Farm on August 7th!
 (5:30-7:30 pm) 4911 Hunt Rd., Hillsborough

All ages are encouraged to join us for a time of reflection, relaxation, and fellowship. Come enjoy some BBQ while we mingle with the farm animals and pick some beautiful flowers. Please bring a folding chair and container to hold your flowers.

Parking is available at the barn with an overflow lot if needed...let's fill the whole farm with PGUMC cars 😊!

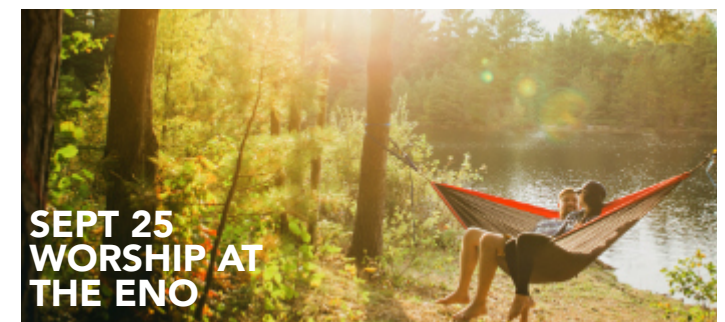
A big thank you to Cindy Stubbs for hosting this event at the farm!

AUG 21: ST. MARY'S HOMECOMING

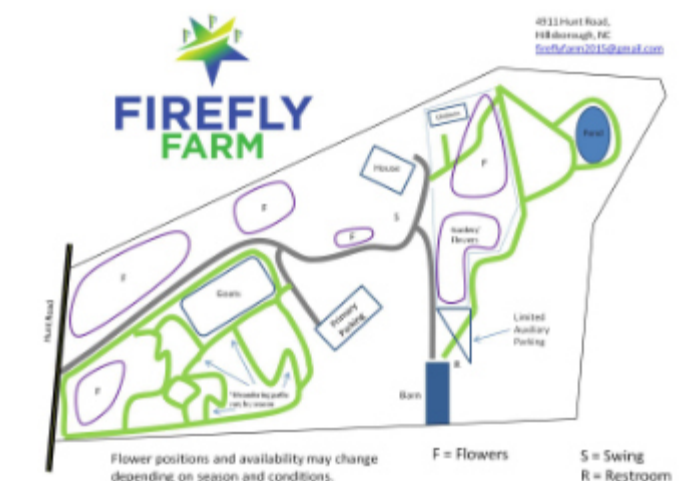


5pm Sunday Service at St. Mary's Chapel. Dinner to follow at PGUMC

St. Mary's Chapel was established in 1759 for the purpose of holding Anglican services in Orange County for the homesteaders who lived in the vicinity of the "Trading Path". The Gothic Revival Style Chapel that now stands was constructed of hand-made brick in 1859. Regular services were discontinued in the 1930's.



SEPT 25
 WORSHIP AT
 THE ENO





Bishop Leonard Fairley preaching

The North Carolina Annual Conference met June 15-18 in Greenville, NC, for the first in-person conference since 2019. 1,104 persons attended the conference, which worshiped around the theme Graceful Justice: Rooted in Our Baptism. Bishop Leonard Fairley presided over his first NC Annual Conference as the episcopal leader.

The conference began with worship and communion as Bishop Fairley preached a message titled “See How They Love Each Other.” He reminded the crowd that the best witness we can give is to live into the words of Jesus – “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” The bishop paused to emphasize that this was not a suggestion from Jesus but a command.

The members were compelled and convicted by the teaching of the Rev. Dr. Janet Wolf, UM clergy and former director at the Children’s Defense Fund. Wolf urged the church to come to the water of life, water that seeks to quench the fires of injustice and water that baptizes people in the knowledge that they are worthy; they are beloved and precious children of God. She challenged the church into “creative, courageous, militant, death-defying, non-violent Kingdom living here and now. The church is not an escape, a safe haven. It’s not where we go to avoid the problems of the world. It’s the community that empowers us to wade into struggles for justice in Jesus’ name.”

We remembered 26 clergy and 18 spouses at the All Saints Celebration and Memorial Service. In a eulogy, the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Locklear said, “We remember fondly many stories...and the magnitude of wisdom that they had. ...We thank God for the colleagues whom we celebrate today for their work and their ministry... [as] ministers of the Gospel to bring hope into a lost and dying world.”

The Rev. Edith Gleaves was recognized and warmly received as the Conference nominee for bishop. Bishop Fairley told Gleaves, “When you have a gift, you share it. So, we are going to share you with the whole church.” The election of bishops will take place at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in November 2022.

During the presentation of the financial reports, the Conference approved a recommendation to change providers for the active health insurance plan to the HealthFlex Exchange program. The HealthFlex Exchange is administered by Wespeth Benefits and Investments and gives participants six options from which to choose with varied costs and services.

Thursday evening included a Diversity Celebration, a time of lament, prayer, and inspiring music. At the conclusion, Bishop Fairley gave a genuine heartfelt message, telling the conference, “We are no longer going to run away from this sin of racism. We’re going to confess it no matter how painful it is. We are going to confess it, and maybe if we begin to confess it, God is faithful and God is just and will forgive us.”

During the Friday morning Celebration of the Connection, Stephen Dunn (clergy), Gayle Tabor (laity), and Jacey Hilburn (youth) were honored as the recipients of the Harry Denman Evangelism Award.

Annual Conference ended with the Ordering of Ministry worship service where 52 persons publicly proclaimed their calling to ministry. Bishop Fairley noted, “You have heard the call of God upon your life for this work, the voice of God saying to you, ‘Look! I have made you for extraordinary purposes.’... Today, we celebrate with joy that each of you have simply replied, ‘Here we are Lord. Send us.’ You have simply answered, ‘Speak Lord for your servant is listening. Here we are, servants of the Lord. Let it be according to your Word.’”

He expounded on the theme of theotókos (God-bearers) like Samuel, Esther, and Mary who said, “Here I am.” Bishop Fairley closed with this challenge, “Please don’t chase an appointment. Please don’t chase a pension. Please don’t chase a salary. Chase the more excellent way. Be God-bearers. Be theotókos.”

The Conference offered many mindful health opportunities, including providing masks and COVID

testing kits, a primary care medical van onsite, blood pressure/glucose testing, and free, confidential talk sessions with a therapist.

The Glow in Greenville 5k Run/Walk drew 100 participants early on Friday morning. The Conference celebrated Friday night at an ice cream social while children and adults enjoyed a basketball shooting competition which brought attention to the many Higher Education & Campus Ministries within the conference.

Three special offerings were received: \$20,072 for Relief for Ukraine, \$8,252 for Tornado Relief for Kentucky and Tennessee, and \$9,078 for The Gary Wayne Locklear Mission Endowment.

Data and Statistics:

- Membership for 2021 was 214,320, down 4,662 from 2020.
- The Conference approved a budget of \$15,734,449 for 2024, representing a 2.21% increase from the approved 2023 budget. This still represents a 28% reduction over the last six budget years.
- Seven churches closed this conference year. Two new faith communities began this year.
- 36 clergy entered retired status.
- The Conference approved the minimum salary for pastors under full-time appointment as \$48,320, an increase of \$947 per year. The Conference voted to continue the student pastor status at a salary of 65% of the full-appointment minimum salary.
- Six elders and two deacons were ordained [average age 36], 16 provisional members were commissioned [average age 36], 18 local pastors were licensed [average age 42], nine lay ministers were certified, and one deaconess was commissioned.
- 163 churches will receive new pastors this year.
- A special-called annual conference session will convene on November 19, 2022, to ratify disaffiliation agreements for churches that have met the requirements to disaffiliate under the Disaffiliation Agreement approved and adopted by the Conference Board of Trustees.
- Annual Conference 2023 will be June 14-17, 2023, in Greenville, NC.



1,200 pastors and Lay Leaders gathered



Brian Wingo’s Retiree Luncheon



Sandy Quinn, lay leader & Pastor Laura

Rev. Larry Bowden, Pleasant Green's minister 1990-2000, is retiring this year.

Pleasant Green members joined with Larry's other churches at Mount Sylvan to celebrate his retirement on Sunday, June 26th.



Pictured with Larry, Julia & Jacob Bowden are Sandy, Mike & Colin Quinn, Susan & TC Adams, Jo Anna & Ronnie Brown and Brian & Diane Wingo. (Ceil & Matt Matthews also attended.)

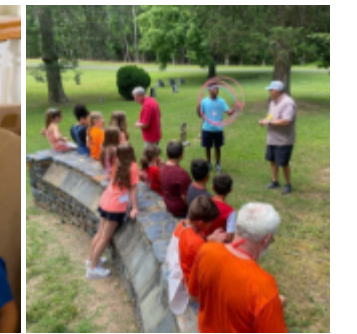
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31
 WORSHIP & PRAISE BAND
 10:30 am
 UMW GENERAL MEETING
 & LUNCH, after Worship
 REEL JUSTICE, 5 pm (pg 3)

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Worship Service, 10:30 am
Children's Church, During Worship, Old Sanctuary
Clyde Walker Sunday School Class, 9:15 am, In-Person or [ZOOM](#)
NEW Sunday School Class, 9:45 am, Seekers Room #217. All ages welcome.
THE WORD Sunday School Class, 9:15 am,
 In-Person, downstairs Afterschool Room or [ZOOM](#)

JULY

Thank you, Wendy Anderson and all the helping hands that made our 2021 Vacation Bible School a success! We had 50 children with 15 youth and 25 adult volunteers.



Dear children and volunteers of VBS,
Thank you all so much for inviting Meals on Wheels to speak at VBS. The paper fruit bags and the beautiful bookmarks you made were delivered by volunteers this morning. Thank you for sharing your love and joy with community members through your artwork. Wishing you a beautiful summer.
Julia, and all of the staff and volunteers at Meal on Wheels Orange County, NC



The Circle of Faith's "Christmas in July" Mission Project will be collecting items that teachers and students will need to start school this fall. These supplies will be donated to the Orange County Elementary, Middle & High Schools.

Take ornaments from the Christmas Tree in the Narthex and purchase the *back to school* items needed. Please return them to Church by August 20th. Thank you in advance for your support of this project!

THE GARDEN AT SPRING FOREST



2022 CSA Season is May 17 – October 25!

Support Local Agriculture! Check out the website and signup! www.springforest.org

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!

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.



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

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%)



The NCUMC Conference has two separate advance special numbers for giving to Ukraine. One is for refugees who have fled outside the Ukraine (982450). The other is for aid inside the Ukraine (14063A). Givers choose where their money should go.

Please make checks payable to PGUMC with # or Ukraine refugees / Ukraine aid on memo line.

July is BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month

From Mental Health America comes this explanation of what BIPOC is: The way we talk about things can often influence the way we think about them. In the field of mental health, we are familiar with "person first" language. This is language that prioritizes the identity of individuals as human beings with unique experiences and identities over their mental health status. For example, we avoid describing people as "schizophrenics" and instead refer to them as "people with schizophrenia."

This concept can be carried out as well in the way we refer to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color). The continued use of "minority or marginalized" sets up BIPOC communities in terms of their quantity instead of their quality and removes their personhood...The word "minority" also emphasizes the power differential between "majority" and "minority" groups and can make BIPOC feel as though "minority" is synonymous with inferiority... By including "BI" Black and Indigenous in addition to "POC" people of color, we are honoring the unique experiences of Black and Indigenous individuals and their communities, as well as the spectrum of existence and experience by POC.

What would Jesus do? What does Jesus say about honoring black, indigenous, and people of color? As people of faith and followers of Jesus, we need to compare our own attitudes and relationships towards individuals and groups that fall into the BIPOC community with those of Jesus. BIPOC groups include African Americans, people of black and brown skin, Asian and Pacific Island Americans, Native American and Alaskan Americans, people from the Middle East, and many more. There is controversy about whether people from Latin/Spanish speaking nations are persons of color. So, what would Jesus say? While Jesus does not address different communities directly, he does give us Matthew 22:37-39, "And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord Your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the

Prophets.' In another passage, Jesus preaches the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5: 2-12), which includes teachings such as (5) blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth, (7) blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy, and (9) blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God." And from God Himself, who is Jesus' and Our Father, "...Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature...For the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." It is interesting to note that nowhere in the Bible does Jesus or anyone say that people who are white or Caucasian are superior or more favored by God. That is a man-made invention.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, open our hearts and minds so we follow your ways. Help us to see each person that you created in love with love. Help us value their strengths and talents. Help us embrace them as you embrace them. And help us resist man-made attempts to divide us based on skin color, ethnicity, or other differences.

Amen.

Resources to Learn More:

Greatest List: <https://greatest.com/grow/bipoc-meaning>

BIPOC/AAPI Mental Health Resources: <https://www.naminh.org/resources-2/bipoc/>

Mental Health America BIPOC Mental Health: <https://www.mhanational.org/bipoc-mental-health>

National Council of Churches Partnership BIPOC Initiative: <https://www.nccchurches.org/programs/phw/>

United Methodist Church Social Principles: <https://www.umc.org/en/what-we-believe/basics-of-our-faith/our-social-positions>

United Methodist Church Social Principles Preamble: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/social-principles-preamble>

List of resources about whether people of Hispanic origin are people of color: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/social-principles-preamble>

The Prayer Ministry meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm in person or by free telephone conference. The next meeting is Wednesday, July 20th at 6:30 pm. 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.



Pleasant Green

United Methodist Church



PleasantGreenUMC.org | pgumc@ncrrbiz.com | 919.383.5764

Pastor

Rev. Laura Thompson
lthompson@nccumc.org

Duke Intern

Emily Robbian
emily.robbian@duke.edu

Duke Intern

Trevor Warren
trevor.warren@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

September 13th at PGUMC
10 am-3 pm

To sign up, contact the Church office at 919.383.5764 or pgumc@ncrrbiz.com or go to redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: Pleasant Green)

PLEASE
RECYCLE