



ROOTS & BRANCHES

JUNE 2022

I walked out of the sanctuary feeling heavy. I know I wasn't the only one. You can feel a room. You can sense the energy in a place. It had certainly been a heavy week in our world. Not a week went by in our country when there wasn't a mass shooting in May. Emily preached for us that Sunday and shared of her experiences traveling to the border. In addition to the 21 people who lost their lives in an elementary school, refugee and immigration issues were confronted in our worship. The famous theologian Karl Barth said that you ought to preach with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. I certainly don't disagree but I will confess, it's not an easy task these days. *And yet*. How else are we to be agents of transformation in the world? At some point, scripture ought to inform the way we live our lives, how we vote, and how we live in community with each other. I can hear some voices now, "getting mighty political, preacher." It's not about "getting political."

After worship that Sunday, someone came up to me and blatantly said, "well. *THAT* was vulnerable. Does anyone else feel vulnerable right now?"

What a great word, I thought to myself. It was vulnerable. It is courageous. Brene Brown defines vulnerability as "uncertainty, risk and emotional exposure." In other words, *to feel* is to be vulnerable. Brown goes on to say, "to put our art, our writing, our photography, our ideas out into the world with no assurance of acceptance or appreciation—that's also vulnerability." Worship is vulnerable. And sometimes, worship, in all its beauty and intimacy, leaves us *feeling* deeply. (The good news is – vulnerability is also the birthplace of love, belonging, joy, courage, empathy, and creativity.) Sometimes, even in worship – we feel a little exposed. Tender. After all, we are not really thinking machines. We are feeling machines that think. When we feel deeply about something, we can easily become angered, disjointed, and divided. Instead of being in tune with ourselves, we project and often do harm to others. All that to say, it's important to be in-tune with our feelings. But that sure does require some vulnerability.

When we feel so deeply the weight of the world, how then shall we live? Is there any wisdom? Yes, and scripture can be our guide. As we move from one season in our church year (Easter) to another (Pentecost and ordinary time), I decided to thumb back through sermons and scripture from our past few weeks together. Here is a recap and some of my own gleanings on how we might live when the world feels heavy:

• **We can pause. Practice waiting. Take a breath. Create space.** At the Ascension, the very first direction that Jesus gives the disciples is to "wait." There is wisdom in patient waiting (Acts 1:4)

• **"That they may all be one."** (John 17:21)- We can strive for unity, which is what Jesus prays for the believers.

• **Be willing to change our minds and our course of action.** Paul's missionary journeys didn't go according to his plan – and after deep prayer and listening to God's spirit, he was led to another place entirely -- to Macedonia and to the home of Lydia. God, grant us the humility to change our minds if you so lead us.

• **See every person as a child of God.** "The spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction." (Acts 11:12)

• **Devote ourselves to good works and acts of charity.** (Acts 9:36) There are so many things to which we could devote ourselves. Let Tabitha, the disciple in Joppa, help us know how to use our energy.

• **Break bread together.** After the resurrection, Jesus commits to gathering with the disciples on the beach. This was one of the practices of the early church. After Paul's conversion on the Damascus road, he found himself in bed for three days, but "after taking some food, he regained his strength." (Acts 9:19)

• **Worship.** Even in the midst of hardship, even in the midst of suffering, even after being thrown into prison, Paul and Silas "were praying and singing hymns to God." (Acts 16:25) And it sustained them through the darkness.

• **Choose joy.** (Psalm 47) Like most things, I think things like joy and gladness and hope have to be practiced. It's a discipline. It's like a muscle- that has to be exercised. Joy can also be profoundly vulnerable. May we be known by our joy and our hope.

Church, we have some exciting things on the horizon. We will soon have halls filled with children for VBS. Meals are being shared together again. We will gather on Pentecost with other churches and be reminded of our connection and the gift of God's spirit. Let us not grow weary in doing good. May God bless you and keep you in the living of your days. Shalom, *Laura*

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

SUNDAY'S 10:30 AM:
IN PERSON / [LIVE STREAM](#)



COMMUNITY HOUR OF PRAYER

with Kathryn Dempsey

For some time I have been compelled to either join someone in prayer, find a prayer group or start one. There is no doubt, from reading the Bible, that the prayers of a righteous person produce wonderful results!

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. Jas 5:16

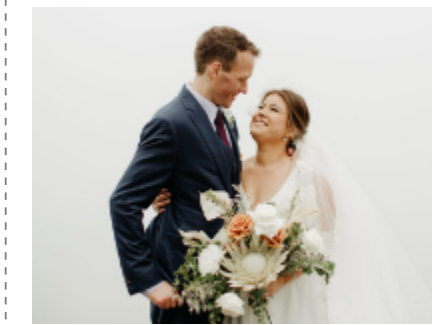
If you would like to join me, I plan to be in the Chapel on Tuesdays, from 9-10. I will not be able to make it all the time, but I will strive in the Lord to do so when possible.

It is a **privilege** to carry everything to God in prayer. (Scriven)

My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up. PSA 5:3

WELCOME OUR SUMMER DUKE INTERN, TREVOR!

Trevor Warren is a rising 3rd year at Duke Divinity School and a certified candidate for ministry in the UMC. Before attending seminary, Trevor graduated from Spring Hill College with a Bachelor's degree in Communication Arts and subsequently worked for two years as Director of Communications at Dickinson First UMC just outside Houston. When he's not reading and writing theology papers, you can find Trevor producing short films and other video-based creative projects.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Mr. William Slade O'Briant & Dr. Shimena Ruth Li were married May 7, 2022 at Twickenham House in West Jefferson. Slade is the son of Rosemary & Billy O'Briant. They live in Pittsburgh, PA and hopefully will return to NC in the next 2 yrs.

2022 SUMMER BROWNING SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications due to Pastor Laura by June 20th! Please call or email the church office for an application.

In memory of Summer Browning, a scholarship fund was established in 1993 by her parents, family and friends. Scholarships are offered to entering students and students already enrolled in an undergraduate program at a four-year college or university.

Factors considered: Church membership & service, Academic Record, Community Service and Need.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

2022 Unified Budget	335,441.48
YTD Total Income to Operating Fund	112,272.79
TTD Operating Expenses	119,177.00
YTD Operating Fund Balance	-6,904.21
2021 Operating Fund Balance Forward	26,386.05
2022 Current Actual Operating Fund Balance	19,481.84
Current Building Mortgage Balance	173,399.31

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

2nd PGUMC RETREAT!

Save the date:
Sunday, Sept. 25th at the Picnic Shelter at Eno River State Park!



2022 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 20-24

Register here!

VBS Participants: <https://bit.ly/PGVBS22>

VBS Volunteers: <https://bit.ly/PGVBSVOL22>

Check out the VBS Website [HERE!](#)

For questions or more information contact Wendy Anderson at 919.630.1939 or wenda@nc.rr.com

VBS VOLUNTEER INFO

VBS Decoration making sessions

Wednesdays: June 1, 8, 15 (11 am - 2 pm)

All are invited to come help paint displays, cut out items, and create decorations for VBS.

VBS Orientation & Decorating

SAT, June 18 & SUN, June 19 (3 - 5 pm)

Orientation will be at 3 pm each day to review expectations and VBS assignments. Please attend at least one of the two sessions.



2022 SUMMER CAMP at PGUMC

June 20 - 24, Week 1: VBS

June 27 - 30, Week 2: Monday - Thursday only

July 11 - 15, Week 3: Chestnut Ridge Traveling Camp

July 18 - 22, Week 4

Summer Camp Registration link:

<https://bit.ly/PGsummercamp>

Please consider making a donation to sponsor a child at Summer Camp!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Children's Church teachers & Greeter & Acolytes are needed on Sunday mornings! Sign up online [HERE](#) or in the Narthex!



Thank you to Nancy Maloney for painting 4 square and hop scotch on the black top.

2022 GRADUATES



Max McCurdy is graduating from Orange High school and will attend Radford University in Virginia this fall. He has been admitted into the Honors College and awarded a Highlander Scholarship. Additionally, Max gained Early Assurance for the Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program and a stipend position in the Research Rookies Cohort.



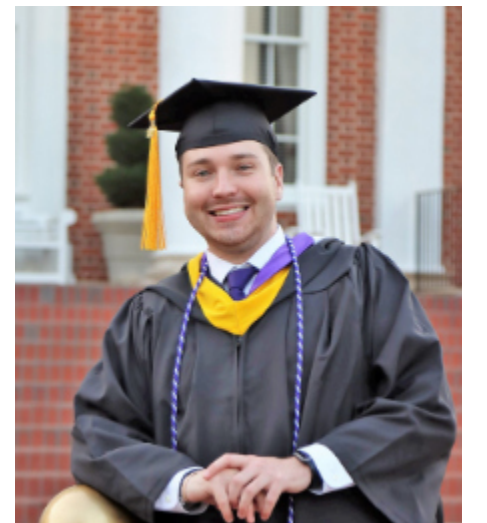
Sara Witt is graduating from Orange High School and plans to attend UNC Chapel Hill and major in nursing.



Hannah Kankelfritz graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She will be working at UNC Hospitals on the high risk antepartum floor.




Millie Nichols is graduating from Durham School of the Arts and plans to attend Belmont University in Nashville, TN to study nursing.



Caeden Brantley Poe graduated May 7, 2022 from High Point University. He has a B.S. in Business Administration and a Minor in Healthcare Administration. He will be moving back to the Durham area and is currently interviewing for jobs in his field.

JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 VBS DECORATING, 11 am - 2 pm CHOIR REHEARSAL, 7:30 pm	2	3	4 <i>Tish Bracey Terry Fisher Megan Stocking Avery Vukmer</i>
5 PENTECOST WORSHIP, 11 am Camp Chestnut Ridge Pavilion <i>Bring a picnic lunch and plan to stay and enjoy camp activities all afternoon: Canoeing, hiking, swimming, games, archery, and more! Fun for all ages!</i> <i>Daniel Bass Ceil Matthews</i>	6 <i>Anna LaBarre Janice Nicholson</i>	7 COMMUNITY HOUR OF PRAYER, 9-10 am (pg 3) COUNCIL MEETING, 7-8 pm Fellowship Hall	8 BIBLE STUDY, 10:30 am VBS DECORATING, 11 am - 2 pm CHOIR REHEARSAL, 7:30 pm <i>Slade O'Briant Jeff Witt</i>	9 <i>Richard Cassidy Kyle Ward Mitch Carter</i>	10	11 <i>D.J. Martin Patsy Stranger Bailey Anderson</i>
12 WORSHIP, 10:30 am SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAINING after Worship, lunch provided <i>Don Bennett Niki McCay</i>	13 UMW BOOK CLUB, 6 pm, <i>Girl Gone Missing</i> by Marcie R. Rendon For Zoom link email NCCUMW.Webmaster@gmail.com PRAISE BAND PRACTICE, 7:15 pm <i>Jane Booth</i>	14 COMMUNITY HOUR OF PRAYER, 9-10 am (pg 3) READ & SEED, 6:30 pm at FireFly Farm. 4911 Hunt Road fireflyfarm2015@gmail.com <i>The Long Petal of the Sea</i> by Isabel Allende	15 BIBLE STUDY, 10:30 am VBS DECORATING, 11 am - 2 pm PRAYER MINISTRY 6:30 pm (pg. 11) <i>June Turner</i>	16 CIRCLE OF FAITH, 6:30 pm NC ANNUAL CONFERENCE <i>Laura Rittenhouse</i>	17	18 VBS ORIENTATION & DECORATING, 3-5 pm <i>Evan Lang Sheri Allison Zoey Best</i>
19 WORSHIP, 10:30 am FATHER'S DAY PIE SALE after Worship service. A wide variety of favorites available! \$10 per pie / \$25 per chicken pie Sponsored by UMW VBS ORIENTATION & DECORATING, 3-5 pm <i>Gretchen Hutt</i>	20 ELEANOR WALKER CIRCLE, 7 pm PRAISE BAND PRACTICE, 7:15 pm <i>Lily Frank Lisa Punt Carnago</i>	21 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL & SUMMER CAMP <i>Doug Bell Victoria Harris</i>	22	23 YOUTH LUNCH & BOWLING after VBS	24 <i>Mei Lynne Ray</i>	25 COMMON THREAD ,9:30 am Fellowship Hall <i>Mike Allison Alyssa Braddy</i>
26 WORSHIP, PRAISE BAND & VBS CELEBRATION, 10:30 am <i>Frank Pruett Hannah Bell</i>	27 <i>Jonathan Minor</i>	28 COMMUNITY HOUR OF PRAYER, 9-10 am (pg 3) SUMMER CAMP	29 BIBLE STUDY, 10:30 am <i>Meredith Hunter McCarter</i>	30 <i>Russell Nichols</i>		

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship Service, 10:30 am

Children's Church, During Worship, Old Sanctuary

Clyde Walker Sunday School, 9:15 am, In-Person or Zoom: <https://nccumc.zoom.us/j/95216612160>

NEW Sunday School Class, 9:45 am, old "seekers" classroom (Room 217) All ages are welcome!

JULY DATES

July 24: Durham Bulls @5:05 Tickets are \$10 each. Everyone is invited!

July 11-16: Youth Week at NC Wesleyan

SPRING MARKET

Benefiting the Steven Collins Children's Music Ministry

Our first ever Spring Market, organized by the Dream Weavers Circle, was a fantastic event! Despite the rain, folks came out to participate and fellowship! The event raised just over \$3,000 for The Steven Collins Children's Music Ministry!

A huge, heart-felt thanks goes out to Steven Collins' former bands that came together and played in his memory—The Thursday Night Band, Crowdaddy and Frankie Faucet; and namely, Steve Milligan, Kyle Clements, Harry Tueting, Billy Totten, Ronnie Brown, TC Adams, Frank Hunter, Michael Clark, Camilla Davis, Mike Quinn, Callie Spirovich and Mark Weems. They provided hours of sublime entertainment!

Thank you to our whole PG community for supporting this event—from local vendors to church family patrons! It was a great time—just look at all these smiles!



MOTHER'S DAY TEA PARTY

Supporting PGUMC Mission trip to El Salvador!



BLOOD DRIVE



FELLOWSHIP DINNER



Thank you for all the donations for the 30-Hour Famine lock-in!



YOUTH NEXT MONTH: July 11-16: Youth Week at NC Wesleyan. Email Emily for details.

GLOBAL FRIENDS ESL PROGRAM

Friday morning classes 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
at The Garden at Spring Forest

Volunteers needed to Set-up/Cleanup Church area, Transport families to/from Pleasant Green, Provide Snacks, Assist with Childcare and ESL classes.

Volunteer Registration Form: bit.ly/GFESLvol

The Global Friends ESL program is a collaborative effort of The Church at Spring Forest, Durham Home Church Network, and Pleasant Green United Methodist Church. We work in partnership with World Relief. Our certified ESL teachers and program volunteers are passionate about welcoming our newest global neighbors and supporting English language acquisition as a major part of companioning refugees in rebuilding their lives here in the United States. We welcome all people without discrimination, based on race, gender, religion, or sexuality. While the Global Friends ESL program is grounded in the Christian practice of hospitality, we are ecumenical and do not proselytize volunteers or students.

Contact Wendy Anderson for questions
919.630.1939 / wena@nc.rr.com.



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 GARDEN AT SPRING FOREST

2022 CSA Season is May 17 – October 25!

Support Local Agriculture! Check out the website and sign up! 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.



Interested in volunteering with Habitat for Humanity?

A group of congregations in the Hillsborough area are currently working on building a house together. Volunteers may sign up for a morning or afternoon session on Saturdays. Here's a link to sign up!

<http://vhub.at/faithinhillsborough>



FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD

Donations collected in the Narthex

New twin/full comforters, New pillows, Pine Sol, Dish soap, Toilet paper, Paper towels



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.

For those of us who attended the Good Friday service in the Chapel on April 15th, we were exposed to heart-felt, emotional, and scripture-based testimony about how the last words and phrases of Jesus Christ on the cross affects us. Over the next few months, some of the presentations will be reprinted here. They will not be in the order found in scripture, but, as our church authors (Laura called us "preachers") submit them. No matter the order, the words are profound; calling us to pay attention to the Holy Trinity at any time.

"Woman here is your son. Here is your mother." John 19:26-27

Reflections by Jacob Lancaster

I find that God acts in my life often through other people. God has brought people into my life who have been there in the hard times, who have celebrated with me in the good times, who have helped me grow in love and into who I am. They've spoken the words I needed to encourage me in my faith journey and modeled the way of love which God calls me to. The image of Jesus calling disciples throughout the gospels strikes me as Jesus' way of creating a family. Jesus says to others, "Hey, you: come join my family! Come, find the community which seeks life in me."

Yet this idyllic image of Jesus creating community seems to contrast with the image of Jesus we see on Good Friday, our Lord and Saviour bleeding and dying on a cross. Jesus' mother and the disciple whom Jesus loved are some of the few who have not left Jesus at the end. Jesus is the one who has been condemned, rejected by his own people, and brutally tortured in the excruciating way of the cross, and this community which Jesus has created dwindles down to only a few who can do little more than stand by and watch their beloved One die.

*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, June 15th 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.

Mental Health Corner

What do the following days and month-long recognitions have in common during the month of June; other than they occur in June! There are two things. One, each of the people listed below, with a unique way of living from many of us, experience feelings of depression, isolation, and anxiety if they are forgotten, ignored, or disparaged. And two, each person and way of living encourage us as Christians to love and value them, even if they are different. In Mark 12:29-31 Jesus said, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

But when I see this address to his mother the disciple he loves, I cannot help but marvel at the love I see in this act. Jesus does not let them experience this difficult time of losing a son, losing a Teacher and friend, alone. Earlier in John, Jesus tells his disciples, "I will not leave you orphaned." Jesus may die a real death on the cross, but even in these difficult days of Jesus crucifixion and death Jesus calls his mother and beloved disciple together, so that they are not alone. The beloved disciple will not be orphaned. Jesus' mother will not be childless. Even as they face the painful experience of losing Jesus, they will not be alone.

In my own life, I have found that leaning into relationships with others make the hard times more bearable, the times where it seems like Jesus is gone are at least not totally empty because I can lean on the faith of my siblings in the family of God. So, as we weep and mourn this day and any day, I pray Jesus calls you into relationship with those others who will be with you as God's agents in your life.

Luke 6: 31 to 36 is full of direction on how we are to care for people different from ourselves, beginning with "And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them...(35) But love your enemies and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. (36) Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

June 1: [Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month](#)
[National Pride Month](#)
[National PTSD Awareness Month](#)
[World Narcissistic Abuse Day](#)

June 18: [International Panic Day](#)

Let us make the world a better place by loving everyone, because God created them in love. Love goes a long way in decreasing mental health issues in people living out of the mainstream.



PleasantGreenUMC.org | pgumc@ncrrbiz.com | 919.383.5764

Pastor

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Duke Intern

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Duke Intern

Trevor Warren
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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>

PLEASE
RECYCLE