

## Discipleship: A Lifelong Internship

Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge:  
 "God authorized and commanded me to commission you:  
 Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life,  
 marking them by baptism in the threefold name:  
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
 Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you.  
 I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day,  
 right up to the end of the age."

We began our worship in June with what we have come to know as "The Great Commission," Jesus' parting words in the book of Matthew. We revisited two definitions. 1) Disciple: someone who lives in the way of Jesus and chooses to be changed by their relationship. 2) Disciple-maker: a disciple who lives changed by Jesus and journeys with other for the intentional Spirit-led purpose of helping them be changed by their relationship with Jesus. In other words, a disciple-maker is someone who trains others in this way of life. This was our focus in worship on June 4th.

Discipleship is not something that just happens. Rarely do people just fall into discipleship accidentally. Discipleship requires effort, intention, and commitment. I came across this graphic below from the Worship Team at Discipleship Ministries. I invite each of us to use it as a tool to reflect and consider where we find ourselves on our discipleship journey. What stage do you fall into? Which areas (worship, community, spiritual practices, generosity, Christ-like) are areas of strength for you? Which place could use some strengthening? And what would it look like to grow and mature in your discipleship journey? What would that look like in your life?

May we trust and believe that God has called us to be disciples. May we trust and believe that God has also empowered and equipped us to do the work of making disciples.

*Pastor Laura*

### DISCIPLESHIP SYSTEM SAMPLE (adapted from the work of Phil Maynard)

	Searching	Exploring	Beginning	Growing	Maturing
Worship	Searching for something more.	Invited by a friend to attend worship. Attend sporadically.	Begin to worship regularly; becoming more aware of God in each day.	Attend regularly and begin to recognize daily moments of worship.	Begin to honor and worship everyday in work and play; inviting others to worship.
Community	Searching for genuine community.	Begin to feel strangely drawn to these followers of Jesus and feel warm acceptance by them.	Move from receiving gracious hospitality to offering it to others in every day life.	Begin to look for ways to love, accept, and relate to others in the same way that the church and God lovingly welcomed you.	Seek to build relationships with others and share with them the life and community that you have found in God.
Spiritual Practices	Wonder about the Bible and if there are ways to experience God.	Feel drawn to the story of God's love and begin to explore scripture.	Begin to pray and read scripture regularly; being open to God.	Move to exploring spiritual disciplines; drawn closer to God on a daily basis.	Enjoy and practice spiritual disciplines, and begin to show others how to use them to grow in faith and be drawn closer to God.
Generosity & Service	Wonder if there is more to life than making money and selfish gain.	Begin to give occasionally in worship and try a service project at church. See other people making a difference in the lives of others and seek to be a part of that.	Begin to give regularly of money, time, and talents; understand Christ's invitation to serve others and discover how God has gifted you to do this.	Try tithing my resources, time, and talent to God through the ministries of the church; exploring ways to use one's gifts, talents, and passions.	Tithe and occasionally give beyond when led by God; begin to restructure life and resources to join Jesus in mission to others.
Christ-Like	The life and teachings of Jesus are intriguing.	Exploring the life of Jesus on my own by reading the Bible and attending my first Bible study.	Accept the call to follow Jesus and commit to the church; seek to become like Jesus and serve others.	Begin to daily apply the teachings of Jesus in everyday life.	Partner with God and invite others to explore the life and teachings of Jesus.
Prevenient Grace		Justifying Grace		Sanctifying Grace	

## SUNDAYS

### Worship Service

10:30 am,  
 In Person or [LIVE STREAM](#)

### Children's Church

During Worship, Chapel

### Clyde Walker Class

9:15 am  
 The Parlor or [ZOOM](#)

### Hearts & Hands Class

9:30 am  
 Seekers room #217

## Wednesday Bible Study

10:30 am, The Parlor

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

2023 Unified Budget **350,139.70**

YTD Total Income to Operating Fund **90,510.46**

TTD Operating Expenses **136,703.67**

YTD Operating Fund Balance **-46,193.21**

2022 Operating Fund Balance Forward **14,533.53**

2023 Current Actual Operating Fund Balance **-31,659.68**

Current Building Mortgage Balance **117,543.04**

*\*Please consider donations to our discretionary fund. Thank you.*



## VBS

Important dates for volunteers:

June 11 (Sunday)

VBS Team meeting @ 11:45 am  
Youth VBS meeting @ 3 pm

June 17 or 18 (Sat. or Sun.)

VBS Orientation 3-4 pm;  
VBS Decorating 4-6 pm  
(One day of orientation is required for VBS volunteers.)

June 19 - 23: VBS WEEK

Monday - 8 am devotion.  
Tues.-Fri. 8:30 am devotion.

June 25: VBS Sunday Celebration

At the 10:30 Worship Service  
Please join us as we celebrate what your children learned during VBS  
Arrive at 10 AM to practice  
Wear your VBS t-shirt!

## SUMMER CAMP WEEK 3: JULY 10-14



Camp Talent Show 7/13/23 @ 5:00pm

We're inviting all PG children to participate in the Summer Camp Musical. "Oh, Jonah!"

Rehearsals:

Mon - Wed 9AM - 12PM  
Thursday - 9AM - 5PM

Performance:

Thursday 7/13 at 5PM

On Thursday, children should bring a bag lunch. Families are invited to come to the performance on Thursday!

## PGUMC Vacation Bible School 2023 - Hero Hotline

At our Hero Hotline VBS, your children will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they are called together to serve God. They will become Heroes and discover that answering God's call together means striving for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up!

After a high-energy Opening Assembly time at 9:00AM, the Heroes make their way through six different stations. In the Bible Story Station, interactive Bible lessons will reveal Hotline Tips to equip your Heroes for an active life with God. Your Heroes will also discover our Hotline Verse (Bible memory verse), which will remain with them in their faith long after VBS.

The students will expand on what they've discovered by making their own art projects at the Craft Station, singing new songs at the Music Station, exploring the wonders of God's creation at the Science Station, playing games at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty treats at the Snack Station. Along the way, the Heroes will hear about our mission project and as they respond to a call for action!

### Opening Assembly - 9 AM daily

- Please drop off your children off by 8:45 each morning
- VBS Mission Project - Diaper Bank of North Carolina  
Donation suggestions: diapers, pull-ups, baby wipes, diaper cream, adult incontinence products, period products.

This year we will collect items for the North Carolina Diaper Bank (<https://ncdiaperbank.org/>) to support our VBS Bible Verse:

*So let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up. ~ Romans 14:19*

### VBS attire:

- Children should dress comfortably for VBS. They will play outside and may get messy in art/science!
- Closed-toe shoes are required, preferably sneakers/tennis shoes  
NO CROCS!
- Children should wear these t-shirt colors each day:  
Monday - BLUE  
Tuesday - GREEN  
Wednesday - RED  
Thursday - ORANGE  
Friday - \*We will provide VBS shirts on Friday morning\*

### VBS Finale & Luncheon - Friday, June 23th

- Finale - 12 PM (Parents - join us if you can!)
- Luncheon - 12:15PM  
Pizza will be provided for all VBS participants and families!

Please contact Wendy Anderson for any questions or concerns!  
Pleasant Green Vacation Bible School Director  
919-630-1939  
wen\_a@nc.rr.com

## ADMIN COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY July 11, 7-8 pm

## 2023 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.

## FIREFLY FARM U-PICK FLOWERS

We are open for U-pick flowers Wednesdays through Saturdays 9 am till 5 pm. Questions? Contact Farmer Cindy at [fireflyfarm2015@gmail.com](mailto:fireflyfarm2015@gmail.com).

\*If you won FireFly Farm's U-pick flowers in last year's online PGUMC auction— here's your chance to get them!



## MUSIC MINISTRY

Thank you all for being so supportive of the music ministry.

The choir members will begin their summer break after the service June 11 and resume rehearsals September 6 at 7 pm.

If anyone in the congregation is willing to do special music for services in July and August, please let Duane know.

## JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF SEWING

# Sew Together

Bring your sewing machine and your current project. Or use our space to spread out for cutting patterns or to enjoy the company of other sewists while you catch up on some hand-stitching.

Sunday June 11

1-4 p.m.

Register at

[orangecountync.librarycalendar.com/event/sew-together](http://orangecountync.librarycalendar.com/event/sew-together)

or

919.245.2525

We'll also have instructions for making a library book tote. (A supply list will be provided.)



# TRANSITIONS WELCOME

*FAREWELL & THANK YOU*



Pleasant Green Family,

As my time here comes to a close, there are not enough words to describe the amount of love and welcome that I have felt here. In September of 2021, I set foot here, not realizing that I would spend the rest of my seminary journey worshipping, growing, and learning with you all. A year later, I became a staff person for children, youth, and their families. I could not imagine finishing seminary without all of your love, support and grace. There is a story in 2 Kings where a woman goes out and ask for empty vessels so that she can fill them with oil to sell. The woman both receives kindness from her community and at the same time pours into them. While this is a story about paying ones debt, I like to interpret as the work of the community. Each one of us is a separate vessel to be filled. You all do an awesome job sharing the load, accepting brokenness, and filling up others when empty. For me personally, I have felt like this woman, looking for parts in our church that are empty and filling them with activities, like with our youth and childrens ministry and I have been filled with love and grace and knowledge from you all. As I move up the mountain to Franklin, I will always carry Pleasant Green with me as the place that nourished me, and allowed me to explore my call. Thank you all so much for everything!

*Love,  
Emily Robbian*



*Bowling with the Youth!*



*Afterschoolers say happy birthday & good bye to Ms Emily.*

*Congratulations to Sara Clark!*

**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES**



Sara is a lifelong member of the church, having been baptized and confirmed at Pleasant Green. She lives in Hillsborough with her husband, Michael, and daughters, Carly Ann and Caroline.



**NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome Caedmon "Churo" Bowlin, Ella McCay & Angel Ponce.

**SUMMER DUKE INTERNS**



I was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky but have been in North Carolina for about five years now. I lived and worked in Charlotte for a few years before coming to Duke Divinity to pursue a Master's of Divinity Degree. I am about to enter my third and final year at Duke. I love creative writing, being out in nature, and exploring new places. I am excited to continue growing my faith along with learning how to better love God and neighbor during my summer here.

*Megan Beach*



I am a 24-year-old Duke Divinity School student who grew up in Mechanicsville, Virginia. From a very early age I felt a call to ministry in the United Methodist Church and have followed this calling to serve God ever since. I hope to both serve in a parish ministry context and as a hospital chaplain. While seeking ordination, I hope to explore and expand on my gifts of preaching, pastoral care, and taking the academic side of what I've learned in the classroom, bringing it into the real world of ministry. Outside of the church, I enjoy spending much of my free time on Lake Gaston where I like to water ski, spend time with family, friends, and my girlfriend Amber. I am very excited to be joining you for the Summer and can't wait to meet everyone!

*Justin Robins*

## IT BEGAN IN A CORNFIELD – EL SALVADOR MISSION TRIP

For the past 15 + years, Pleasant Green has had a fruitful partnership with the Methodist Church in El Salvador. Our work began in the small village of La Providencia, just outside of Ahuachapan, where our first mission was to provide medical care to that community and building a home for Angelita (an elderly woman in the community).

During that first trip, a vision was cast that a Methodist church was needed for the community. A small parcel of land, nothing but a field of corn at a dirt crossroad, was identified as the perfect spot for the church. Over the course of the following year, Pleasant Green raised the funds for the purchase of that field of corn and now, years later, that parcel holds a thriving church, a parsonage, an education hall and a medical clinic! It thrills this writer's soul to see how a simple vision can become a possibility and then a vital reality for a community a world away. And it is all because of your faithful generosity.

In the ensuing years our mission teams have helped to build schools, churches and homes. We've delivered countless meal packages to hungry homes and taught hundreds of children about the love of Jesus. We've taken youth and adults on an experience that is life changing and life fulfilling. And it is all because of your faithful generosity!

While the work we do is of vital importance, the relationships we've forged over the years are even more so. With this in mind, we plan to return this summer! And again we ask for your help. Without

packing a bag, YOU are a vital part of our collective missional experience. Your financial gifts help to offset the cost of our Mission Journey. Please consider making a gift to the El Salvador Mission Fund. Without your generosity, it would be nearly impossible to continue our vitally important work of sharing the love of Jesus with our neighbors in El Salvador.

We are planning several fund raisers. You may have noticed the bag of food in our Narthex. It symbolizes the Food Ministry that we joyfully share. That small bag of staples can feed a family of four for a week. Many of these families get by on \$2 a day, so this bag not only supplies them with nourishment...but with hope.

We are also offering our services to you! If you have minor home repairs, for a donation to the El Salvador Mission Fund, we would be happy to help you! You may contact Brian Wingo at 919-949-4388 to schedule!

Also, we are planning an after church meal as a fund-raiser. Please stay tuned for more details!

Finally, we encourage you to pray for our team! Our trip is scheduled for July 18-25, 2023.

And it is all because of your faithful generosity! May God bless you.

Brian

## EL SALVADOR FUNDRAISERS

### Taco Salad Lunch- Sunday, June 18!

Support our El Salvador Mission Team by staying for a delicious taco salad lunch after worship service in the fellowship hall. Choose from a variety of toppings to create your personal taco salad: chicken, beef, black beans, corn, green onions, tomatoes, cheese, black olives, sour cream, and of course, lettuce & tortilla chips. \$10 Adults, \$5 Children. Takeouts available & drinks included.



### Feed a Family

in El Salvador with a \$25 donation! Food is delivered into the homes by the Mission Work Team.



THANK YOU RICHARD!



# Pleasant Green

*United Methodist Church*

3005 Pleasant Green Road, Durham, NC 27705

PleasantGreenUMC.org

pgumc@ncrrbiz.com

919.383.5764

## PASTOR

*Rev. Laura Thompson*  
*lthompson@nccumc.org*

## DUKE INERNS

*Justin Robins*  
*Megan Beach*

## 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*

**Pleasant Green United Methodist Church**  
**2023 SUMMER CAMP**

3005 Pleasant Green Road  
Durham, NC 27705  
919-383-5764

Online Registration: <https://bit.ly/PGsummercamp>  
Email: [pleasantgreenafterschool@gmail.com](mailto:pleasantgreenafterschool@gmail.com)  
Church Website: [www.pleasantgreenumc.org](http://www.pleasantgreenumc.org)

**Inviting rising 1st - 6th graders**  
**to 4 weeks of Summer Fun!**

June 19-July 21  
7:30 a.m - 5:45 p.m.  
-Closed Week of July 4th-

**Arts & Crafts**  
**FIELD TRIPS**  
**LEARN GAMES**






**Week 1: June 19-23**  
**Vacation Bible School**

**HERO HOTLINE**  
Called Together to Serve God!

9:00am-12:30pm  
Lunch on Friday!

If only attending VBS (not camp), register at <https://bit.ly/pgvbs23>



**Week 2: June 26-30**

**Chestnut Ridge**  
**TRAVELING DAY CAMP**

Traveling Day Camp at Pleasant Green  
with the staff of Camp Chestnut Ridge

**Lunch provided all week!**



**Week 3:**  
**JULY 10-14**

*Pleasant Green's*  
*Got Talent*

**PGGT**  
*Music, Theatre, Arts & Crafts*

Camp Talent Show 7/13/23 @ 5:00pm



**Week 4:**  
**JULY 17-21**

Let's Get **COOKING**

- © Kitchen safety
- © Cooking skills
- © Following recipes
- © Restaurant trips

Camp Cookbook


