



Pleasant Green  
*United Methodist Church*

PleasantGreenUMC.org

## ***Roots & Branches***

**November 2019**



### **Bishop Hope Morgan Ward**

*From Pastor Laura ...*

The NC Conference of the UMC has had the deep privilege of being under the leadership of Bishop Hope Morgan Ward for the past seven years. As she begins her final year as Bishop before retirement, she has spent time traveling to each district and meeting with the pastors to share words of both inspiration and practical ways she will live into her ministry for the upcoming year. On Sunday, October 6, the pastors of the Corridor District gathered with the Bishop and began our time of worship reflecting on Psalm 66, "...yet you have brought us out to a spacious place..." We also read together a paragraph from the Book of Discipline in the section entitled "Our Theological Task." In anticipation of yet another General Conference, the Bishop reflected a bit on the words from paragraph 125 and how part of our calling is "to think afresh."

Following worship, she laid out ten "focusing principles" - ways she will be spending her time and energy over the upcoming year. Many of these things are not new but ongoing ministries. I share these ten items with you:

To follow the lectionary (and to pray the lectionary). This is not just a resource, it is a gift to us and helpful because it serves up texts we never would preach and learn about. It also helps us to be in solidarity with one another.

Volunteer once a month with hurricane victims in Eastern NC. She will continue to focus on families that are still displaced from Hurricane Matthew and rejoice in the expanding work of disaster response within the conference.

To continue to support the Relief Storm Fund.

To continue anti-racism efforts across this conference.

Learn, Read, and Listen. At this point, the Bishop directed the pastors to the wise words of Parker Palmer - to be learning leaders and to put "the thing" we are focusing on in the middle of a group of people - not on the shoulders of the pastor.

Be thankful. Cultivate gratitude.

To provide Advent Resources for pastors, churches, and church leaders.

To provide Lent Resources. During Lent, we as a Conference will recognize the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Oscar Romero.

Keep walking around - covenant with one another within the connection to care not just for souls, but for bodies as well.

Delivering the Episcopal Address at General Conference. The Bishop has been invited to be one of the guest speakers at General Conference and graciously accepted the invitation. We will pray for the Spirit's guidance and direction as she prepares.

*I hope you join me in giving deep thanks for her leadership, and let us continue to pray for her in this year ahead and all that will transpire in the NC Conference.*

# ADVENT at PLEASANT GREEN

## December Worship Schedule

No 8:30am Service  
11:00am Worship ONLY

## Adventicipation!

Saturday, November 30

Advent Decorating  
begins

at 9:00am

*Come and bring family  
& friends!*

*UMW Christmas Dinner ~ December 9 at 6:30 p.m.*

*ALL women of the church are invited!*

*Please bring a dessert.*

*Sign up on the UMW bulletin board by Sunday, December 1*



*Candle Burning for Missions*

*Give a donation to burn a candle in memory or honor.*

## Pleasant Green Mission Market

Saturday, December 14 - Fellowship Hall at 9 am

*Come early for best selection!*



Please sign up to bring your favorite homemade cookies or baked goods. We will have a wonderful variety of cookies, cakes, pies, breads, and candies as well as handcrafted items—jewelry, ornaments, knitting, Salvadoran items, stocking stuffers and other gifts.

*Bags, boxes & bows will be available.*

*It is a fun time —so tell your friends!*

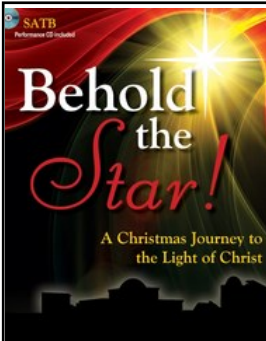
*Come take care of your holiday baking needs!*



Christmas  
Caroling to our  
shut-ins

Sunday, December 8  
at 3:00pm

*Join us as we spread the joy  
of the season!*



Chancel  
Choir  
presents

*Behold the  
Star!*

*A Christmas  
Journey to  
the Light of  
Christ.*

Sunday, December 22  
at 11:00 am Worship

The story of faith is often reflected as a journey from darkness to light. "Behold the Star!" is an inspirational reminder that Jesus, the light of the world, has indeed come! It is a blend of original and familiar carols.

*Come be a part of this  
Christmas Journey  
worship experience.*



CHILDREN'S  
CHRISTMAS PLAY  
PRACTICE

IN THE CHAPEL ~ K & up

9:45am - 10:15am

SUNDAYS, NOV. 3 - 24

SUNDAYS, DEC. 1 & 8

10am - 12pm

SATURDAY, DEC. 7

Children's Nativity

11:00 am Worship  
December 8



*Children*

*~ all ages ~ are invited to  
take part in the Children's  
Christmas Nativity.*

*Sign up in the Narthex.*

## Order Poinsettias

*to be placed in the  
Sanctuary during the  
Christmas Season.*



*Deadline to order and pay is  
December 8. Sign up sheets for  
Poinsettias given in honor or  
memory of loved ones,  
are in the Narthex.*

*Cost is \$7.00 each.*

*Make checks with  
Poinsettia on the memo line  
to PGUMW and place in the  
offering plate.*



*Please bring gifts of food for OCIM  
on Christmas Eve, the Sunday after  
Christmas and Epiphany Sunday.*

*Christmas Eve Worship*  
*Communion Candlelight Service*  
*5:00 pm*



Eleanor Walker Circle's Back  
Pack Ministry for Central  
Elementary School



**Food donations are needed!**

*Place in the red box in Narthex.*

*Please also save Box Tops for Educa-  
tion—leave in basket in the kitchen or  
give to Mary Ann Hamm.*

## pleasant green youth group

### **November Youth Calendar**

Friends, Fellowship, Games and  
Lessons / Sunday School - 10 am

### **Upcoming Special Events**

**November 8 -10:** Pilgrimage ~ Fayetteville

*Pilgrimage is a weekend-long event where  
youth groups come to celebrate, worship,  
and learn about God on a large scale. Youth  
and their leaders will gather at the Crown  
Coliseum for 4 amazing worship services  
with a house band full of youth leading the  
music, youth shared testimonies, and a guest  
speaker sharing their message.*

**November 17:** Assisting at 11am Worship  
Dinner out with Hillsborough UMC Youth

**December 8:** Christmas Caroling

**December 15:** Youth Christmas Party  
with Hillsborough UMC Youth

### **Mission Market**

**Craft Sundays 10:15 am**



**November 17 & 24**

**December 1 & 8**

**We need all children & youth to help us  
make crafts for the market!**

*Service project to support the  
Mission Teams of Pleasant Green*



**Save the Date!**

**5:30 Thursday, December 13**

Join us for a chili supper & to  
make chocolate covered cherries  
for the Mission Market!



## **DID YOU KNOW??...**

Pleasant Green UMC has expanded ways to give. 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!

### **WAYS TO GIVE AT PLEASANT GREEN UMC**



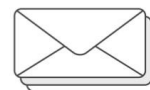
**ONLINE**

[www.pleasantgreenumc.org](http://www.pleasantgreenumc.org)



**MOBILE**

**Text:**  
**"PLEASANTGREEN"**  
**To: 77977**



**ENVELOPE**

**Cash & Check**

### **Reading Volunteers Needed**

PGUMC Afterschool had great success last year with our volunteer reading/homework helpers. We would like to continue the program this school year. We need volunteers to help with reading and homework Monday-Thursday from 4:45-5:15. If you are interested please contact JoAnna and let her know what day is best for you. This is a wonderful way to make a difference in a student's life. You don't have to have teaching experience and men are welcome too!



### **Down East Mission Trips**

Hurricane season is upon us. Pray fully that Dorian will be the last we have this season. Last year after Hurricane Florence passed through our state PGUMC sent a team to Wilmington and Kelly, NC. Those of us on those teams saw first hand the destruction a hurricane can have on material things and people's personal lives. I wish to form a team(s) that will help rebuild the lives and homes of hurricane victims. I propose that once a month we travel to a location, within a two hour drive to help with hurricane relief. We will perform this through UMCOR. Also, I have been given information with projects in our area thru Habitat for Humanity. All work will be on a Saturday. As we have learned from previous trips, no special skills are required. We can always find something to do. If you wish to join this team please contact Jim Perry at [perryjames@twc.com](mailto:perryjames@twc.com).



**PG Reminder:** At the advice of the Fire Marshall, when leaving the church, please be sure all lights are out and doors to rooms are closed in an effort to reduce a potential fire from spreading .

from the Prayer Ministry...



## Nurture and Outreach Ministry at the Time of Thanksgiving

*1 Chronicles 16:34 Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his love endures forever.*

*Psalms 105:1 Give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make his deeds known to all people!*

During this season of Thanksgiving, we give thanks for Pastor Laura, our staff, and for all of the members of our church and the regular attenders. Each has special gifts and talents that they joyfully contribute to make our church a whole body, a whole family, through the inspiration and love of God and His Son. Everyone has a special place in the service of our church and in our hearts. From the Prayer Ministry, thank you for being here; thank you for all that you do in Jesus's name!

We want to focus especially on the Nurture and Outreach Ministry this month. What better group to recognize for Thanksgiving than people who symbolize the warmth, fellowship, abundance, and nurturing than this Ministry. These members provide the deeds of the Lord, quietly and competently go about their work, making sure that we are cared for; especially when ill or distressed. The charge to this group is that the Nurture and Outreach Ministries *address the concerns and needs of people in the congregation and community, focusing on areas of nurture and membership care, as well as planning and implementing programs for church-wide fellowship and service.* Susan Adams (Chair), Jo Anna Walker Brown, Camilla Davis, Kathy DuLaney, James Hamm, Patt Hatcher, Gretchen Hutt (now moved away), Ginger Link, Van McCay, Jean Nichols, Patsy Stranger, Martha Walker, Sheila Witt, John Micol, Beth Nichols, Millie Nichols, Asher Nichols, and Pastor Laura really take care of us. They organize the delicious meals and pot luck dinners, let appropriate staff and ministries know when a member of the congregation needs help, and often provide the help themselves. They are truly a group of caring, compassionate people who put action into Jesus's words of love. It is time to bring their actions to light.

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

*Loving, nurturing Father, who carries our burdens and puts our heart, and feet in the right direction, thank you for bringing these wonderful, loving, compassionate people to Pleasant Green. Thank you for giving them to us as examples of your Son's kindness. He ultimately put our needs above His own; as this ministry of nurture and compassion so often do. We are grateful to you for the gifts and talents you have given them. And, thank you for blessing them and their families with your abundant love, closeness, and guidance. Help them and us continue to walk closely with your Son. At this time of joyful thanksgiving, in His name we pray. 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, November 20, at 6:30 pm.**

***We want to pray for you and people/situations you feel need prayer. Please complete the cards in the pews, being sure to include your name and contact information.***

## Creation Care – How and Why?

Did you know that plastic is being dumped into the oceans at the rate of a truckload a minute?

One estimate is that by 2050 there will be more tons of plastic in the oceans than there are fish. Most of the trash collected in coastal clean-ups is single-use plastic: straws, cups, grocery bags.



You have probably noticed that many restaurants have switched to paper straws or no longer give you a plastic straw unless you ask for one. Long-lasting metal straws are available at many stores.

Many people are committed to NEVER using plastic grocery bags. They carry their own re-usable bags to the grocery. Many charitable organizations give away re-usable bags as a way of promoting their cause. Most grocery stores sell inexpensive re-usable bags. If you are in a store and realize you left your re-usable bags in the car, what can you do? Request paper bags instead – they will eventually disintegrate and in the meantime can be used as a waste basket at home. Or ask to have the groceries put back in the cart unbagged; then when you get to the car, you can put them in your re-usable bags. A benefit is that you can sort items as you go along making unloading at home much easier.

*Janice Nicholson*



## **Corridor District Charge Conference at PGUMC**

**Sunday, November 3**

**(3 p.m. arrival) Christ, Aldersgate (Chapel Hill),  
Amity, University, Carrboro, Palmer's Grove, Lebanon,  
New Sharon, Orange**

**(4 p.m. arrival) Cedar Grove, Pleasant Green, Walnut Grove, Carr,  
Union Grove, Orange Chapel, Ridge-Garden, Efland, Hillsborough,**

**4:15 Worship for First and Second Groups in Sanctuary**

**5:30 First Group Departs, Second Group Remains**

## **Summer Browning Scholarships**

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



The Summer Browning Scholarship Committee will be meeting this month to review scholarship guidelines.

*Applications will be available on November 30.*

## **October 14<sup>th</sup> Administrative Council and Connectional Table**

We gathered for our final meeting of the year to wrap up business and also to do a little bit of reflecting on the life of our church throughout the past year. As many of you know, we attempted a new structure this year to care for the administrative areas of our life together. In short, instead of three separate committees, Trustees, Finance, and SPRC all meet together. At this particular meeting, we invited other committees and leaders to join us.

John Dewey penned a quote that has always stuck with me: "we do not learn from experience, we learn from reflecting on experience." Reflection is not always easy – sometimes it feels like a waste of time, like we aren't "producing" anything or "taking care of business." It can be slow and even messy. Yet, I believe people of faith are called to deep reflection, lest we miss the hand of God at work in our lives. And so we began by re-reading our mission statement printed on our brochures: "Pleasant Green is a nurturing congregation, connecting to the community for the equipping of disciples for service to the world."

With hot ham on our plates and the smell of fresh brownies filling the room, we spent some time nourishing our bodies while also naming those ways that our spirits have been nurtured at Pleasant Green in the past year. People named a variety of things: the music, sermons, women's circle meetings, Sunday school, the prayer letters, a community of support, to name a few. We asked questions about what it would look like to continue that trajectory and deepen that nurturing spirit in the next year. Ideas around worship, connecting more with our neighboring churches in Orange county, and expanding feeding ministries were named. It's helpful to hear these things and to know where the church is feeling a sense of energy and excitement. I will commit to praying for God's guidance – and I will ask you to join me – in helping all us tap into those places in our church where we feel energy to nurture ourselves and one another. I believe that just might be the Spirit breathing life into our community.

The second half of our time together was spent tending to trustee, finance, and SPRC agenda items, which included completing a number of things in preparation for Charge Conference. Here are few highlights:

Completion of the "State of the Church" Report due to the Conference

Approval of 2020 lay leadership + follow up discussion about recruiting and expanding new faces on church leadership in the upcoming year

Finance updates:

Approval of a 2020 budget, which includes a 2% increase for current staff (but excludes any new staff that will be hired in the coming months)

Approval for a fire detection monitoring system to be installed (installation is one time purchase of \$3600 with an annual fee of \$600/year), which will reflect an increase in minor capital improvements line item

Small increase in worship line item to cover costs for Worship at the Eno

Slowly seeing more people give online – some recurring gifts and several new givers

Large amount continues to be budgeted for parsonage support with the anticipation of having to replace the roof at some point in the future

SPRC Updates:

Discussion around prioritizing a search for a new office administrator and will soon announce this job opening. This will be a 16 hr/week part time position.

Pastor Laura and Michael are continuing youth ministry on Sunday nights for the remainder of the calendar year – but this is not a long-term solution

This was our final meeting this calendar year. Dates for 2020 will be announced in January and as always, these meetings are open to anyone and everyone invested in the life of our church. Lastly, I personally want to thank all those who continue to show up and work for the good of this community. Thank you for serving and for giving of your time, energy, and presence to ensure the wellbeing of Pleasant Green UMC. For those not present, we covet your prayers and support.

Blessings, *Pastor Laura*



As some of you know and have heard, several churches in the Hillsborough/Northern Orange County area have been working together over the past year around some really simple questions: how can we work better together, for God’s kingdom, and how can we support one another? It’s been exciting and life giving to gather each month – to let go of some of our tears and realize that our connection is indeed a gift. We have had some great fellowship and have also begun some exciting projects together. Many of our discussions have been around Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)– a fancy way of saying we want to look at the gifts (people, places, skills, everything) of our area and not just the needs. We want to begin from a place of recognizing the gifts we have already been given and work from a place of abundance. We also know that in order to get to know what gifts we have, we have to get to know our neighbors.

This fall, we have set aside three nights for pastors and a couple of laity to gather for dinner to introduce this idea of ABCD. We gathered on August 12, October 21, and will gather again on November 18 at Eno House (Eno UMC in Hillsborough). These gatherings include food and some fun exercises to introduce the material. We have also been present with a booth at Last Friday’s in Hillsborough and attended our last gathering there on October 25. It was a way for us to simply “be” in the community and have information/flyers about what is happening in our churches. Our group gathered a couple of times over the summer, and we have submitted a grant to Duke Endowment in hopes of receiving some funding for the upcoming year of ministry.

Finally, our biggest project right now is to do more training on reaching our neighbors. This will take the form of a program called the Good Neighbor Experiment, something that was started by the folks at 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 we have for these “labs” are: January 11 (from 9–5), May 2 (from 9–5), and August 29 (a half-day celebration plus dinner). While I know that adding “one more thing” to our calendar does not always make sense and might not be the next faithful step for you/us, we are trusting that God’s spirit is at work and, in a culture that tends to build walls and divide, we are committed to building trust and connections so we can better live Jesus’s greatest commandment – right here, in our own neighborhoods. If you are interested in being a part of these trainings, or simply want to hear/learn more, feel free to reach out for more information. *–Pastor Laura*

*Pleasant Green Family News*



Congratulations  
to  
**Zoey Best  
& Brent Waffle**  
married in  
Wilmington  
on  
August 8!

Congratulations  
to  
**Mindy Walker  
& Matt Vukmer**  
married at  
Pleasant Green  
on  
October 5!



**Baptism of  
Parker Scott Glidden**  
son of Ashley & Jay Glidden  
grandson of Sandra & Billy Totten  
September 29  
at the Eno Worship Service



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

*Your Help is Needed!*

### Potato Peeling Party

6:00 pm - Friday, November 1



### Brunswick Stew

Saturday, November 2

7:00 am - 7:00 pm



Eleanor Walker Circle  
Monday, November 4 at 7:00 pm

**Eno Fire Department  
BBQ ~ 11 am until...**



**Saturday, November 9**

*BBQ available for eat-in or take-out*

### **Food For All**

Tuesday, November 12

*sponsored by the Women's Class*



*Dream Weavers Circle*

7:00 pm - Tuesday, November 12

**UMM Breakfast at the church**

7:30 am - Sunday, November 17



**11:00 am Worship**

**Sunday, November 17**



**Prayer Team Meeting**

6:30pm Wednesday, November 20

**Circle of Faith at Melos**

6:30 pm - Thursday, November 21



The Eleanor Walker Circle is sponsoring a church wide collection drive of diapers, baby wipes and feminine hygiene products for the Diaper Bank of N.C. from

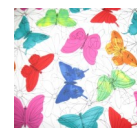
**October 20 - November 24.**

*Please drop off donations in the narthex.*

### **Common Thread**

*A Ministry to Comfort the Dying*

Saturday, November 23, at 9:30 am



### UMW Pie Sale

*Fundraiser for Missions*

*Sunday, November 24*

*Bring your favorite pie (sweet or not) for the fundraiser, buy one or two to take home for Thanksgiving!*



### **PGUMC Commemorative Plates**

Celebrate our 187th year with a beautiful plate featuring the Old Sanctuary.

A sample plate is on display in the Narthex.

\$25 each ~ contact the church office



**Pleasant Green UMW Cookbooks are still available!**

*Special sections: Old favorites from the first PG Cookbook published in 1980 and the Christmas Cookie Sale recipes! The cookbook includes 433 recipes and pages on PG Church, as well as UMW history. (\$16)*

***Purchase cookbooks & support UMW missions!***

### Pleasant Greeners' Lunch

Wednesday, November 20, at NOON

Lunch provided! Please come and enjoy food, fun, fellowship and entertainment by

Renea Henderson - "The Bag Lady"

*Renea Henderson Ministries provides Christmas gift packets to children in Sri Lanka.*



Request from Farmer Cindy... Firefly Farm would like any unwanted 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.*





**Pleasant Green United Methodist Church**  
 3005 Pleasant Green Road  
 Durham, NC 27705  
 (919) 383-5764

**Non-Profit Org.**  
**US POSTAGE PAID**  
**Durham, NC 27705**  
**Permit No. 5**

**Website:** [PleasantGreenUMC.org](http://PleasantGreenUMC.org)  
**Pastor - Rev. Laura Thompson (919) 383-2339**  
[lthompson@nccumc.org](mailto:lthompson@nccumc.org)

Address Service Requested

**Church E-mail:** [pgumc@ncrbiz.com](mailto: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.



**9am - 11am Saturday, December 14**

**Featuring**

**HOMEMADE BAKED GOODS**

Cookies, cakes, candies, breads, canned goods, chocolate covered cherries and more


**HANDCRAFTED ITEMS**

Jewelry, ornaments, knitting, Salvadoran items, stocking stuffers, and other gifts

Cookies and Candies - \$9.00 per lb.

Decorative gift boxes, bags, and ribbon available

*Sponsored by Pleasant Green Mission Teams*



**UMM's Brunswick Stew**

**By the Quart Only**

*Sign up in the Narthex to pre-order Brunswick Stew by the quart (\$9)*

**Your help is needed!**

Sign up in the narthex to help!

**Friday, November 1 at 6pm**

*The Potato Peeling Party in the multi-purpose room*

**Saturday, November 2**

**7:00 am - 7:00 pm**

*Cutting meat, opening cans, stirring, quaring & selling stew.*

Order online at <http://www.pleasantgreenumc.org/>



November 3

Daylight Saving Time ends

**Thanksgiving Covered-Dish Dinner**



Pleasant Green  
Community Center

6:30 pm

Wednesday, November 27

Everyone is invited to join in the fun, food and fellowship!

**RONALD McDONALD FAMILY ROOM & PEDIATRIC UNIT AT DUKE HOSPITAL**



*Help family members & their children while at the hospital!*

<p><b>FAMILY NEEDS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel toiletries</li> <li>Shower caps</li> <li>Men: deodorant, shaving cream</li> <li>Women: feminine products</li> <li>Individual snacks</li> </ul>	<p><b>CHILDREN NEEDS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New / Gently used clothing</li> <li>Sizes (Preemie – 18 yrs.)</li> <li>T-shirts, Comfy pants</li> <li>Socks, Underwear</li> <li>Any Boy outfits/Girl dresses</li> </ul>
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