

ROOTS & BRANCHES

NOVEMBER 2022



The disciples ask for more faith. The tax collector prays for mercy. Zacchaeus wants to see Jesus. These are the stories that have taken center stage in our worship throughout the month of October. These are the parables that have been teaching us something about how we understand our calling and our mission – and it involves Faith. Mercy. Pursuing the holy.

Pope Francis imagined the church as a kind of field hospital. Church as a place where sinners, the doubtful, the wounded, the disenfranchised could come and receive care and relief from their suffering. In the Protestant imagination, church has often been understood as a kind of school where we learn alongside one another. Early Christian thinkers likened the church as kind of gymnasium where we train and grow. A place where we develop strength, flexibility, where we stretch our muscles and embrace a life of training.

Another image people have used is that of a huddle, as in – a team huddling on a playing field. Ultimately, teams huddle to discuss, encourage, collaborate, challenge, critique --- for the sake of being sent out after the huddle. Whether we resonate with the image of a field hospital, a school, a gymnasium, or a huddle, there's no doubt that the church is a group exercise where we encourage, inspire, collaborate, challenge, critique, model, lead, follow, strengthen, learn, and heal. Week after week, we huddle – for the sake of being sent into the world. And in our worship, in our huddles, we have wondered – how can we bring more of God's mercy into the world? How can we be people of faith? How can we take up a life of pursuing God – climbing out on limbs, ultimately, inviting him into the most intimate parts of our life, around our tables, in our homes?

There are moments when it is easy to get discouraged – because it seems like the only “muscles” being strengthened in the world are the divisions, the building of walls, the fracturing of the church, hatred, anger, greed. The list goes on. We need a place where the suffering of the world can be healed. A place where our minds can be stretched and our hearts expanded. A place where we train for the Christian life. We need a field hospital. We need a school. We need a gymnasium. We need... the Church. To rekindle our faith. To receive God's mercy. To help us in our pursuit of the holy life. We

need to huddle together so that each and every week we can be sent out to embody God's mercy and grace in a world that is desperate for it. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but rather a spirit of power and love and self-discipline.

My prayer for our church in the coming month is that we will rekindle the faith that we have been given. That we will become a people who not only receive God's mercy, but learn to live it in the world – feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, giving drink to the thirsty, burying the dead; and that we will also pursue a holy and Godly life. I believe that opportunities abound to grow as disciples and to bear witness to God's goodness in the world. May we commit ourselves to this gospel and to this calling, knowing that God is with us and our faith is not in vain. Thanks be to God.

Laura

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Worship Service

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

Children's Church

During Worship, Old Sanctuary
[Volunteer here!](#)

New Methodist Bible Study

“Revival: Faith as Wesley lived it”
9:15 am, In-Person

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sat Nov 5 **Fall Stew**
By the quart - \$12, pick-up 4-6 pm. To order: email pgumc@ncrrbiz.com or call 919.383.5764. Volunteers Needed to help cook!
- Sun Nov 6 **Charge Conference 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall**
- Nov 11-13 **Youth NCCUMC Pilgrimage**
- Sun Nov 13 **Off Site Retreat Interest Meeting 12 pm in the Fellowship Hall (pg 4)**
UMC Informational Meeting 3 pm in the Fellowship Hall
The purpose of this meeting is to come with questions and better understand what is happening in our denomination.
- Wed Nov 16 **Blood Drive 10 am-3 pm (pg 8)**
- Sun Nov 20 **Youth Thanksgiving Potluck 4-6 pm**
- Sat Dec 3 **Hanging of the Greens 10 am**
- Sun Dec 4 **UWF (United Women in Faith) Christmas lunch 12 pm**
Youth host “Parents Night Out” 4-7 pm
The Youth are fundraising for their Lake Junaluska Winter Retreat in January. Drop your kids off with our youth 4-7 pm. \$15 per child / \$10 for second child
Mission Market Online Auction 12/4 - 12/9
- Thurs Dec 8 **Cherry Making for the Mission Market 5:30 pm**
All are invited to help make chocolate covered cherries. A light dinner will be provided.
- Sat Dec 10 **Mission Market at PGUMC 9-11 am**
- Sun Dec 18 **Choir Cantata 3 pm (pg 4)**
No 10:30 am worship

For all events, see our online calendar!

<http://www.pleasantgreenumc.org/calendar.html>

FINANCIAL UPDATE

2022 Unified Budget	335,441.48
YTD Total Income to Operating Fund	232,161.34
TTD Operating Expenses	259,999.08
YTD Operating Fund Balance	-27,837.74
2021 Operating Fund Balance Forward	26,386.05
2022 Current Actual Operating Fund Balance	(1,451.69)
Current Building Mortgage Balance	146,013.34



PGUMC Holiday MISSION MARKET

December 10th * 9 - 11 am

Online items: Dec. 4-9
www.32auctions.com

HOMEMADE BAKED GOODS

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



HANDCRAFTED ITEMS

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

Sponsored by the Mission Teams at Pleasant Green United Methodist Church

* 3005 Pleasant Green Rd. Durham NC 27705 * www.pleasantgreenumc.com *

2023 PGUMC SPRING RETREAT!

Join us **November 13th** for an **Off Site Retreat Interest Meeting!** Immediately following the morning worship in the Fellowship Hall.

We are excited to announce that we are planning a weekend long off-site retreat for the Spring of 2023. We are currently exploring a variety of locations within a 1-2 hour drive of Pleasant Green that offers activities for all ages and conducive to building stronger community. We hope that families and all ages will find this to be a wonderful opportunity to have some fun, strengthen our bond with one another, and grow spiritually. If interested in learning more, please join us for a brief planning meeting on Sunday November 13th immediately following the morning worship in the fellowship hall. If you are interested but unable to attend the planning meeting, please contact Richard Cassidy to find out more.



PGUMC Fall Retreat "Best Self Workshop" in Oct..



Homecoming at Pleasant Green on October 9.



CHOIR CANTATA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022
No 10:30 am Worship

Pleasant Green UMC at 3 pm
3005 Pleasant Green Rd
Durham, NC 27705

Bethany UMC at 11 am
2809 Guess Rd
Durham, NC 27705

The combined choirs of Bethany United Methodist Church and Pleasant Green United Methodist Church will perform *Have You Heard?* by Joel Raney and narrated by Rev. Belton Joyner. A freewill offering will be collected at both performances.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We have been engaging with a curriculum called *Simply Loved* which starts from the beginning of the Bible to teach children about the amazing love of God. Please consider volunteering! [Sign up here!](#)



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 Caramel Crunch & sea salt
Very Dark Chocolate (71%)
Chocolate with Coconut Milk (55%)
Milk Chocolate

PATSY & WAYNE STRANGER ARE MOVING!

1205 S. Wright Road, Greenville NC 27858



Afterschoolers say thank you & goodbye to Ms. Patsy!



The Circle of Faith saying "see you later" to Patsy!

JAMESON SCOTT BEAVER



Congratulations on the birth of Jameson Scott Beaver, son of Kristin & Cody Beaver & little brother of Cameron Hunt and grandson of Scott & Jackie Beaver born October 17 weighing 8 pounds 1 ounce.

2022-2023

PLEASANT GREEN AFTERSCHOOL

Links below for information:

[Afterschool Application](#)

[Afterschool Manual](#)

[Afterschool Calendar](#)

If you would be interested in volunteering for our homework support program at Afterschool (Mon-Thurs, 4:30-5pm), please email Susan at susan_adams2@hotmail.com. Thank you!

PLAYGROUND RENOVATIONS

Check out the new playground fence! We have removed the middle fence section and expanded the fenced area to enclose the back playground and added a wide gate near the driveway to allow space for mulch delivery.

Did you know some of our playground equipment is over 30 years old? We are working with Woodplay of the Carolinas to design and install new playground equipment. www.woodplaync.com/outback



HALLOWEEN AT PLEASANT GREEN



Thank you to all who came out and helped with Halloween at Pleasant Green. We could not have done all of it without the help of our amazing volunteers.

Congratulations to the Hamm's and the Hambone's for winning the Trunk decorating contest! Make sure to give them a congratulations when you see them!

SING AND MAKE MUSIC IN YOUR HEART TO THE LORD, ALWAYS GIVING THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER FOR EVERYTHING, IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Ephesians 5:19-20

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

During this Thanksgiving Season, let us remember to give thanks. As Paul in Ephesians reminds us, ALWAYS give thanks to God the Father for Everything. During our busy lives or in moments of despair, sometimes we find it difficult to remember God, who gave us so much. So ALWAYS is a high bar to reach. But, whenever you eat a meal, go to bed, brush your teeth, see a friend, hug a family member, wonder at the autumn sky, give thanks! Give thanks for learning that God is always with us, cares for us, and will see us through. Give thanks for joy, laughter, smiles, and even tears. Give thanks that God is in control, with his perfect wisdom, timing, and planning. Give thanks that we can let go and give our prayers to Him.

Here are two prayers you may want to use as you pray your prayers of Thanksgiving. They come from: <https://www.pray.com/articles/prayers-for-thanksgiving>

Father God, Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives, thank you for Your goodness and for Your blessings over us. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life. Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with Your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day and every day. We give you praise and thanks, for you alone are worthy. In Jesus' Name, Amen." (Debbie McDaniel)

Thank you for all the blessings you give me. During this Thanksgiving season, as I look at all you have done for me, I am overwhelmed. Most of all, I thank you for sending Your only Son to die for me. Thank you for raising Him from the dead and that He now is seated with you in heaven. Thank you for the gift of Your Holy Spirit, whereby I can feel Your presence. May I always hunger to spend time with you. In Jesus' Name, Amen." (Joan Walker Hahn)



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
919.383.2339

Director of Family Ministries

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

November 16th at PGUMC
10 am-3 pm

To sign up, call 919.383.5764, email pgumc@ncrrbiz.com or go to redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: Pleasant Green)

PLEASE
RECYCLE