



Pleasant Green *United Methodist Church*

PleasantGreenUMC.org

Roots & Branches

October 2019



“Transitions”

Sunday afternoon before the race. 95 degrees out. Everything on my checklist laid out there on the pavement – Shoes. Socks. Helmet. Sunglasses. Water bottle. Towel. Hat. I had strictly followed a training plan and felt confident in the areas of running, biking, and swimming, but I knew there was more to the race. I also had to survive the transition areas. I had to make a smooth transition from the water to the bike, and then again from the bike to the road. The last thing I wanted to happen was for a disaster to happen in the transition area. And so, I practiced. I practiced all the everyday details that seem like nothing – I practiced running barefoot and putting socks on. I practiced putting on my helmet and mounting my bike. I practiced taking my helmet off and putting on a hat. I timed myself. I prepared. I wanted to be ready. The last thing I wanted was to have a disaster in the transition area.

It gave me a little extra confidence on race day and gave me a sense of being ready. But reality is, there are some transitions in life for which a person cannot be ready. Even when we know with our minds what lies ahead, the truth of it is, we never feel ready when the time comes. Even though graduation day has been on the calendar for months, when we send our child off to college, we could not anticipate the deafening silence coming from his or her bedroom on the first night away at college. Or that phone call from a loved one telling you to head to the hospital, that she’s not well. We know that death happens, but we’re never fully ready. Or that transition of having to give up some independence and allowing other people to come into your home, your car, your life and help you care for yourself or your loved one. There are some transitions that a person simply cannot master.

It’s been a hot summer. And it seems that we are finally beginning to taste signs that fall will indeed come. Cooler mornings, mums filling the storefronts, leaves beginning to fall. A reminder that no season ever lasts forever and that all of creation is always in a state of transition. As I reflect on our world, our church, my life and what I know is happening in some of your lives, there is a reminder that we are constantly transitioning – and while we may not be able to master the transitions, I do believe that we can embrace them with grace by how we live our lives day in and day out – that there actually is a way to “prepare.” Here are a few ways we can “practice” being present to God, to ourselves, and to each other.

Practice lovingkindness and gentleness. We can actually practice having compassion for ourselves, and patience.

When we do, we learn to have compassion with others.

We can loosen our grip. It’s exhausting going through life with clenched fists. Have you ever experienced the freedom in simply opening your palms? Go ahead and try it. Ground your feet on the floor, clench your fist and then feel the deep release of slowly opening your palms and letting them rest in a posture of openness. Our body has much to teach us. May our spirits follow suite.

We can be willing to feel what we are going through. Unfortunately, society has tended to make us feel shame and embarrassment for having strong feelings. We honor rational thinking and we make up all kinds of falsehoods when people express deep feelings, labeling people as “overly emotional” or “weak” or “needy.” Don’t believe the lies. The truth is, when we deny the emotions of our heart – joy, grief, pain, disappointment, betrayal – we deny the essence of life.

We can continue to be learners, asking that question: What is this experience teaching me?

We can refrain from making judgements about our experience. An event or situation cannot always be put into a box of “good” or “bad,” sometimes it just “is.”

We can continue being a people of prayer – formed deeply by silence, questions, liturgy, and singing.

We can remember that life is not meant to be lived alone. Week after week, we gather as the church and “do life” together. We don’t always get it right and sometimes we hurt each other, but we keep showing up – to God and each other, knowing that grace meets us where we are, love enfolds us, and God’s spirit does and will sustain us.

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Friends, whatever season you find yourself in, know that I and the good folks of Pleasant Green are praying for you. May you transition well. May we all embrace the gifts of whatever season we find ourselves in, holding fast to the promise that God's goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives. God is with you. You are not alone.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Laura

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



Food donations are needed!

Place in the red box in Narthex.



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



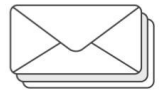
ONLINE

www.pleasantgreenumc.org



MOBILE

Text:
"PLEASANTGREEN"
To: 77977



ENVELOPE

Cash & Check

pleasant green youth group

October Youth Schedule/Updates/Needs:

October 6: Youth Group, 5:00-7:00 @ church

October 13: Youth serving in 11:00am Worship in the morning

Youth Group, 5:00-7:00 in the evening with guests from Society of Saint Andrew

*** We need 3 adult volunteers from the church for youth group to help with a simulation for tonight's program*

October 20: Youth Group, 5:00-7:00 @ church

October 26: Haunted Barn @ FireFly Farm ~ 7 - 9 pm
**Contact Cindy Stubbs for more details*

October 27: Youth Group, 5:00-7:00 @ church

October 31: Halloween Carnival, 5:30-7:30 pm
at PG Community Center

**** Volunteers needed to:**

bake cakes for the cake walk and decorate cars & provide candy for trunk-or-treat!

***Volunteers are needed to provide dinner for each Youth Group gathering on Sunday night. Sign up sheet is in the Narthex or you may contact Pastor Laura at lthompson@nccumc.org to volunteer!*

****Mark your calendars for Pilgrimage on November 8-10 in Fayetteville. Pilgrimage is a weekend-long event where youth groups come to celebrate, worship, and learn about God on a large scale. Youth 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.**



Contact pleasantgreenumcyouth@gmail.com

UMW Silent / Live Auction

Saturday, October 19

5:00 — 7:00 pm

Silent Auction 5 - 6 pm

Live Auction 6 - 7 pm

Please join us to browse & bid on silent auction items while enjoying appetizers/desserts.

Donations of items are appreciated!!

Suggestions for donations: gift cards/certificates for items/services, pottery, jewelry, vacation homes/retreats, baked goods, other handmade items *(please include description of item/value)*

Ladies are asked to bring an appetizer and dessert.

Donation: \$1 for opportunity to own a



New Amish Handmade Patchwork Quilt from

Lancaster, PA

King 115" x 115"

PGUMC 187th Homecoming



Reverend Doctor Elaine Heath taught us in times of stress we can pray by breathing in God knowing that in God we are home.



We welcomed Bob & Pat Boggan! Bob was Pleasant Green's student minister while he was attending Duke Divinity School 1962-1966.



Alicja, Ryan, Hudson & Norah Link joined the church on Homecoming Sunday.
Welcome home!

The Link Family
After spending over 10 years in the Charlotte area, Ryan's employment opportunity brought us back to Orange County. Ryan grew up right off Pleasant Green Road and is excited to be re-united with his church family. He works at Big Rock Sports in Graham. Alicja was born and raised in Poland and moved to the States in the early 2000s. She currently works for Cisco. We have been married for 5 years and live in Hillsborough with two wonderful children: Hudson (3.5 years old) and Norah (21 months). We are so happy to officially join PGUMC!



Laura and Jamie Thompson led us in worship through songs on August 18th.



A Note from Pastor Laura

A few days ago, a friend and I were hiking in the Eno and commenting on how life-giving it is to live so close to the river. We shared stories of growing up and how our lives were shaped by living near water. The conversation turned into questions, “if you could live near any body of water, where would you live – the ocean, the river, or the lake?” We both quickly crossed off lake. We analyzed the vastness and mystery of the ocean, and we both came to place of deep respect for the river. Rivers are not static. They bend, they move, they lead you downstream. Most are fed by smaller streams and most of them lead to larger bodies of water.

Anyone who has ever spent much time in a river knows that you best respect the flow of the water. You can fight the current, but you probably won’t win. At some point, you surrender. I share all of this to say that we at Pleasant Green find ourselves in yet another bend in the road, surrendering to another movement in the system, being carried in a new direction that we did not anticipate. After a summer of searching, interviewing, and eventually hiring a youth director and office administrator, as of this week, Courtney Sanford has resigned due to being offered a position at Duke. We were so grateful to have her with us for one short month and there is no doubt that even in a month, she brought joy and shared her gifts with our community. We bless her as she goes. She writes, “I am deeply sorry that I was not able to stay longer...Thank you for the warm welcome I received. You truly have an amazing church that is missionally active and you love and support each other well. I appreciate the opportunity to work with you and to get a glimpse into the ways in which God is using you to transform your community.”

She is right. We do have an amazing church and I believe that is partly because we are learning the art of entering the currents of life together and helping one another surrender to the streams of life. It’s the only way. And so, we are off on another adventure, leading us downstream to a destination yet to be determined. In the meantime, I, along with Michael Larbi, will be taking care of youth group gatherings on Sunday nights. JoAnna is helping out with the day to day office operations. When I know more about what’s next, I’ll share more. In the meantime, continue to pray for our church, our leaders, and especially our youth. In the words of John O’Donohue, “I would love to live like a river flows, carried by the surprise of its own unfolding.”

from the Prayer Ministry...

Afterschool Ministry



Ephesians 6:4 – And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (King James Version)

Galatians 6:2 – Carry each other’s burdens so you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Common English Bible, Guideposts)

Philippians 2:4 – Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch for what is better for others.

That is what this Ministry within the Spiritual Formation and Mission Development Circle does. It nurtures children, carries their burdens, and watches out for what is better for others. The Afterschool ministry is beginning its 29th year of nurturing children! Providing time for homework, fun, playing, and snacks after school, the staff and volunteers make sure the children have a safe, secure, loving place. Jo Anna Walker Brown as Director, Becky Crawford as Chair, Sonya Braddy, Gretchen Hutt (now moved away), Wayne Leonard, Chris Martin, Martha Walker, Susan Adams, Ginger Link, and others make decisions about what is best for the program and spend time with the children. Under this group’s leadership and compassion, they listen to children’s troubles, teach social skills, help with homework, and keep the children engaged. The reading program is growing, thanks to this nurturing group and other volunteers who help children develop their skills and enthusiasm for reading.

Let us pray for this ministry, the Disciples who make it happen, and the children they serve.

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 these ministers 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. We pray that the staff, volunteers, children and their families will draw closer to you. Help everyone learn that you are the God of love, patience, and joy. For those not close to you and your Son, help them learn that, too. 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 pray for ministries in our church; local, state, national, and global needs; as well as the people you have entrusted to us. Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 16 at 6:30. 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.



DIAPER BANK of North Carolina

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.

**SACRED
RESISTANCE
AND MOVING
FROM CHARITY TO
SOLIDARITY
A DAY OF LEARNING**

Spend the morning with Ginger Gaines-Cirelli and the afternoon with Clayton Childers as we learn how to follow Christ into lives of sacred resistance and solidarity with our neighbors.

**Tuesday, October 29
Edenton Street UMC, Raleigh
Schedule: 9am- 3pm**

Contact Pastor Laura if you plan to attend.

Words of Gratitude



Thank you so much for remembering me in your prayers. It has meant so much to me over the past 4 years. You are a very special congregation. Sincerely, *Colleen Saint John*

Thanks to everyone at our Pleasant Green family for your thoughts, prayers, and deeds during Ruby's declining health and passing. Your continued support is always appreciated.

Blessings to all,

Ted Martin, Cindy Martin, Ann Owen, and George Morton

Dear Saints of Pleasant Green,

Because of God's faithfulness in answering the prayers of believers, Dwight has done well throughout his chemo and radiation therapy. He has balance issues that need to be overcome, so we welcome your continued prayers. James 5:16 says, "the effective prayers of a righteous man availeth much. Sincerely, *Helen and Dwight Doerring*

Jenell and Ron Morrow would like to thank you for the cards, flowers, and kind expressions of sympathy shown following Coralene's passing.

Your support at this difficult time was very much appreciated and a great comfort to both of us.

Dear PGUMC,

Thank you so much for another year of back to school support! I apologize for the delay in this thank you -- as you might imagine, it's been real busy! But thanks to you all and your generous donation of school supplies, a huge weight was lifted off my shoulders and more importantly, off the shoulders of many families and teachers at Cameron Park. We are so very grateful for your support!

Best, *Bekah Pea*

Local 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 thru 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 thru 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



As Hurricane Dorian continued to threaten the U.S. east coast, United Methodists were connecting with Methodists in the Bahamas to start relief efforts.

The Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church already is fielding requests to help those being evacuated from the "unprecedented devastation" to receive basic supplies and find a place to live, says its president, the Rev. L. Carla Culmer.

UMCOR needs your help.

To donate: write a check to PGUMC with Bahamas on the memo line or visit

<https://www.umcmission.org/umcor/serve/international-disaster-response>

RONALD McDONALD FAMILY ROOM & PEDIATRIC UNIT AT DUKE HOSPITAL

Help family members & their children while at the hospital!



FAMILY NEEDS:

**Travel toiletries
Shower caps
Men: deodorant,
shaving cream
Women: feminine
products
Individual snacks**

CHILDREN NEEDS:

**New / Gently used clothing
Sizes (Preemie – 18 yrs.)
T-shirts, Comfy pants
Socks, Underwear
Any Boy outfits
Girl dresses
Onesie
(Snap front / bottom)**

Collection box in the Narthex.

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!



UMW Celebrates 150 Years of Missions!



A wonderful Conference Annual Meeting has been planned for this year. The meeting is on October 12th at Methodist University in Fayetteville, NC. We will celebrate 150 years of missions with women, children, youth, both globally and locally.

The celebration will continue at our District Annual Meeting at Bethany UMC in Durham on October 19 at 10am.

“Starve the landfill to feed the Earth”

Kudos to various members of the PGUMC family who are setting an example of being re-cyclers, composters, and avoiders of single-use plastics.

Dave Cook used compostable forks, knives and spoons during this past summer’s Eno Camps. This not only reduced trash sent to the landfill but introduced campers to a good way of caring for creation.

Lisa McCurdy provided the great slogan “starve the landfill to feed the Earth” and is willing to help the church start a worm compost bin for coffee grounds which would provide nutrients for our rose garden. She has expertise and worms to share.

Cindy Stubbs gave all of us opportunities to clear out our cupboards by recycling unused vases and mason jars for flowers grown on her farm.

At the NC annual conference in June, a resolution on **Care of Creation** was adopted. One of the provisions states that ***“we urge all congregations to be faithful stewards of Creation by responding to climate change through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and technology. We urge all congregations to adopt programs at their facilities, and in their homes, for the conservation of energy and water, and for recycling of materials that can be reused.”***

Michael Larbi returns to PGUMC as Ministerial Intern through the Spring of 2020. Please join us in welcoming him back!

We also welcome **Hannah Sipes**.

My name is Hannah Sipes and I am a graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University with studies in Church Music and Christian Worship. I am in my third and final year at Duke Divinity School.



Previously, I have worked as a worship leader at a variety of churches in Marion, Indiana as a part of my studies, as a pastoral intern through the Great Plains conference at FUMC Manhattan and again later as a paid intern working in the areas of children, youth, worship, and administration as well as the nursery coordinator, as a youth ministry intern in the Great Plains conference office in Wichita, KS, as a worship and youth intern at Northridge Church in Sabetha KS, as a desk worker in my residence hall, and a tutor for several music classes as well as elementary school math and reading. I have also done three summers of field education, first at Morehead City FUMC and second at St. Matthews UMC/Open Hearts Bakery and Shady Grove and Friendship UMC, and third in Detroit, Michigan at Birmingham and Berkley First. I currently work on campus as a Goodson Chapel intern and as a part of the Divinity School Council. I grew up as a United Methodist pastor’s kid and so I have lived in small towns across central and eastern Kansas. I enjoy reading, sewing, crocheting, and playing music. I play the guitar, piano, keys, harmonium, ukulele, a couple woodwinds and sing. In college, I participated very heavily in the music department in choir and other small ensembles and in residential life. I love being a part of the church and ministry, and I especially enjoy the areas of worship, discipleship, and Christian education. I am very excited to meet you all and join in with what God is doing.



Eleanor Walker Circle
October 7 at 7:00 pm

Common Thread

A Ministry to Comfort the Dying
Saturday, October 26 at 9:30am



Food For All ~ October 8

Sponsored by the Choir



Pleasant Greeners' Lunch

Wednesday, October 30 at NOON



*Lunch provided! Please come and
enjoy food, fun and fellowship!*

Bingo Day!



Dream Weavers Circle
7:00 pm — Tuesday, October 8



Hearts and Hands Goes to Murdoch
8:30 am on Sunday, October 13
All invited to come!

Halloween Carnival at PGCC

5:30 – 7:30 pm

Thursday, October 31



6 - 8 pm - Monday, October 14

Administrative Council/ Connectional Table

Your Help Is Needed!

Potato Peeling Party

Friday, November 1 ~ 6 pm



UMM Brunswick Stew

Saturday, November 2 ~ 7 am to 7 pm

Sign up in the Narthex to help!



Prayer Team Meeting
6:30pm Wednesday, October 16

Circle of Faith at Jo Anna's
6:30 pm – Thursday, October 17



UMW Auction – Saturday, October 19

5 pm - Silent Auction

6pm - Live Auction



UMM Breakfast at the church



7:30 am - Sunday, October 20

Alamance Children's Theatre Presents

HONK!

October 4 - 6 & 11 - 13

The Paramount Theatre

Directed by Wayne Leonard

Tickets online at www.etix.com/ticket/v/12794



Laity Sunday
October 20



Brunswick Stew Meeting
Monday, October 21 at 6:30pm



Haunted Barn at Firefly Farm
7 - 9 pm
Saturday, October 26



**Praise
B a n d**

Come enjoy the music of our
PRAISE BAND at 11am Worship
on the last Sunday of each month!



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
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 (919) 383-5764

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Pastor - Rev. Laura Thompson (919) 383-2339
lthompson@nccumc.org
Youth Ministry: pleasantgreenumcyouth@gmail.com

Address Service Requested

 Please recycle this newsletter. 



Halloween Carnival

Thursday, October 31 ~ 5:30 to 7:30 pm
 Pleasant Green Community Center
 Games, Prizes, Cake Walks ~ Inflatables
 & Trunk or Treat!
 Hot Dogs, Chili, Slaw, Onions, Chips,
 Drinks and Desserts

Invite friends! Come have fun!



UMM's Brunswick Stew



By the Quart Only
Saturday, November 2

***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 6 pm

***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/>

Or call the church office.

Haunted Barn ~ All Invited



On October 26 from 7- 9 pm Witch Hazel (aka Farmer Cindy) invites the public to experience her Haunted Barn. Thrills and frights await you as you enter the Witch's Haunted Barn. Candy can be found throughout the barn - are you brave enough to find the sweet treats? Bring your biggest bag to trick or treat from the spooks! A flashlight may also be helpful to appreciate all the whimsy in this haunted barn...

The Witch invites you to bring gross goodies and potent potions to share with other brave souls. Prizes will be awarded for creativity - stick to the Halloween theme! And bring friends - the more victims the better!

Kids and adults alike, dressed in your best costumes, are challenged to survive this frightful night....!

Prizes will be given for the best costumes.



The witch has been waiting all year for this spooky occasion. Come and stay awhile --- we are dying to see you.