



Pleasant Green
United Methodist Church

PleasantGreenUMC.org

Roots & Branches

September 2019



The Tears of Things

It's a funny thing. To run again. To lace up your shoes after a traumatic week of death and life crashing like a head on collision you never saw coming. I can't remember the last time I went two weeks without putting one foot in front of the other and logging some steps and miles. I was putting one foot in front of the other, but the measurements that week were seconds, minutes and breaths. It sure was hard to breathe that first afternoon back – and I'll tell you, it wasn't because it was 95 degrees on an August afternoon – I've done that before. It's because running with grief is hard. Living with grief is hard. And burdensome. And heavy. Like shackles on the feet. Like a weighted vest around your torso. Added pounds and added emotion. I suppose I could have just stayed in. Waited for another day, another time, another season. But all the experts seem to say some of the same things—normalcy is good. Routine is important. Do the things you would normally do. So after two weeks of being stagnant and eating *all* the funeral food, I tied up my laces and found my favorite trail.

One of the discoveries I have made is the interesting relationship between grief and creation. It all started on an evening walk four days after my grandmother passed. My feet moved through the tall grass, cars were whizzing by me, and clouds moved rapidly over head, but despite the frantic activity all around me there was an emptiness. It felt even the cosmos was missing something, like there was an emptiness in creation itself. Robert Bly, back in 1990, once wrote that,

[there] may be a grief that's in nature itself. You remember the Latin term, *Lacrimae Rerum*, the tears of things? [People] have lived for centuries out there, and they feel that terrific grief of nature and the out of doors and pine trees. There are certain little groves in England, if you walk in there, you'll burst in tears, because there is a grief in nature."

I like the idea that hurt and pain and anguish are not limited to flesh and blood and humans hearts. But that it somehow, some way, it is carried in the pine straw, and the budding flower, and the frantic squirrel. I know it is because I remember. I remember that drive on Saturday morning, August 3, going from Middlesex to Kitty Askins Hospice and driving through a dense fog that had settled over Eastern NC that morning. A blanket. Something hovering. Death moving in. I will forever remember my cravings during these weeks for an afternoon thunderstorm, longing for the earth to echo my heart – for something to disrupt and disturb, because that's what grief does and is... and what great relief there is when creation can mimic that movement of the soul. So everyday I check the weather, hoping for that crack of thunder or that burst of lightning. Because grief is disruption. And if the atmosphere can be disrupted, then surely it's OK for my soul to be disrupted right now, too.

Church, I know there was a million different topics I could have written a newsletter on this month. But this is where my heart is. Some people say that grief is the most universal experience, and I know some of you are carrying your own. Thank you for letting me share my heart. And thank you for sharing yours with me over this past month. As one of you wrote to me in an email, "joy that is shared is double the joy. Sorrow that is shared is half the sorrow." It has been a gift to be on the receiving end of your prayers, countless notes, your kind words and your presence. The Psalmist asked God "what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" While I cannot know if the Psalmist ever got his answer, I do know that we are a people with the capacity to share deeply *lacrimae reum*, the tears of things. I'm thankful that in creation there are always echoes, in the communion we have there is space for sharing the tears of things, and in the sharing itself there is relief... a deep peace that passes understanding.

-Pastor Laura

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
Education—leave in basket in
the kitchen .*



pleasant green youth group

Upcoming Events

September 8th @5pm: 1st Elevate
September 20th: Maple View 7 pm
September 21st 8:30-12:30:
Durham Food Bank
October 31st: Halloween Carnival
November 8th-10th: Pilgrimage

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!

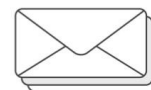
WAYS TO GIVE AT PLEASANT GREEN UMC



ONLINE
www.pleasantgreenumc.org



MOBILE
Text:
"PLEASANTGREEN"
To: 77977



ENVELOPE
Cash & Check

The Eleanor Walker Circle made sandwiches
& filled bags for FOOD FOR ALL .



UMW Silent / Live Auction



Saturday October 19th

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"

Drawing ~ 10/19 at 7:00 pm



Pastor Laura asking for blessings on the El Salvador Mission Team.



Wendy and Bailey Anderson, George Ann McCay, Jim Perry, Mark Stocking, Jed Hampton, Debbie Covington, James Hamm, Gliscerian Vindas, Yariela Valverde-Vindas, Isayara Valverde-Vindas, Charles Fitzpatrick, Josiah Ramirez

We worked at El Shaddi Methodist Church. We were asked to help build frames out of rebar. They are building frames for construction of a new high school. Sixty rebar frames are required to build one column. Twenty columns will be needed. We completed one column. We also painted the iron fence around the El Shaddi church. Bible school was held for three days in the morning and afternoon. Approximately 40 children attended each session. The children played games, sang, read Bible verses and played four square. We raised enough money for 72 bags of food. We delivered food to people living in the area of El Shaddi. One bag of food will feed a family of four for a week.



from the Prayer Ministry...

Praying through a Poem – Welcome Home!

We are doing something different this month. Instead of praying for our church ministries, let's pray for welcoming people to our church home. This poem was downloaded from Pinterest; presumably written by Rev. Dr. Bart Roush for a Children's Time with Pastor Bart at Madison Square Presbyterian Church, San Antonio Texas (msqpc.org).



Home is where you put one foot on the porch
and before your other foot even touches the landing
the door dances open
and the first thing you see is a huge smile
and the first thing you feel is a huge hug
and the first thing you hear is your own name
spoken with excitement and elation and jubilation
and so much love.

Home is where you don't have to be anybody but you.
You don't have to be good enough
or clean enough, or smart enough
or strong or pretty enough
or think only the right thoughts
or believe only the right beliefs
or guard your heart
or deny your mistakes
or hide your wounds
or silence your needs
or measure your hopes and dreams.
You don't have to pretend to be somebody you're not
so you can belong
because at home
you belong already.
You are a child of God.

So, we say to you:
Come on in.
Come on in, as you are.
Come on in, child of God.

Welcome home!



Come pray with us! Our Prayer Ministry meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm. The next meeting will be September 18th.

Special Homecoming Offering on September 15

Happy Birthday, PGUMC! In celebration of our church's 187th birthday, please consider a special offering to further the ministry and missions of PGUMC, given in honor or memory of someone. Thanks to the generosity of its family and friends, PGUMC endures, providing encouragement, enlightenment and spiritual growth to so many people, near and far. We've accomplished a lot in 187 years, but have so much left to do!

PGUMC Ministerial Interns

Keli Pennington & Michael Larbi were honored with a reception on Sunday, August 11th.



We welcome Rev. Elaine A. Heath, PhD as our Homecoming speaker!

Dr. Elaine Heath's scholarly work is interdisciplinary, integrating pastoral, biblical, and spiritual theology in ways that bridge the gap between academy, church, and world. Her current research interests focus on community as a means of healing trauma, emergent forms of Christianity, and alternative forms of theological education for the church in rapidly changing contexts.



Heath is the author of numerous books and articles, the most recent of which is *Healing the Wounds of Sexual Abuse: Reading the Bible with Survivors* (2019), a republication with updates of a previous volume: *We Were the Least of These: Reading the Bible with Survivors of Sexual Abuse* (2011). Her other publications include *Five Means of Grace: Experience God's Love the Wesleyan Way* (2017), *The Mystic Way of Evangelism, Revised and Updated 2nd Edition* (2017), as well as others.

Heath's vocational journey includes having served as Dean of the Divinity School at Duke University, and the McCreless Professor of Evangelism at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. She is a pioneer in new forms of theological education. In that capacity Heath is co-founder of the Missional Wisdom Foundation, a non-profit educational organization that equips clergy and laity to develop diverse forms of Christian community and social enterprise. Heath is the co-founder and President of Neighborhood Seminary, a contextualized model of missional theological education for laity. Heath is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church and served in pastoral ministry prior to her academic ministry. She lives with her husband at Spring Forest, an intentional Christian Community and farm on New Sharon Church Road.



An Update from Courtney



Thank you all so much for the warm welcome. It has been wonderful meeting all of you and learning more about Pleasant Green. Sunday night youth group will start on September 8th . There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to provide a meal for the youth on Sunday nights. We will begin a series this fall on food insecurity and hunger. We will have speakers from local agencies come and talk to us about the work they are doing. We will look at the Bible to see how we are called to respond as Christians. I would love to have a monthly service project that will also focus on hunger. We will be working in the Durham Food Pantry and gleaning with the Society of Saint Andrews. We will have a monthly fun outing as well. Stay tuned! The youth will plan the Halloween Carnival on October 31st . We will have more details soon. The youth will be heading to Pilgrimage in Fayetteville November 8th -10th.

Email me if your youth would like to sign up or you would like to be a chaperone. I am excited about the work we are beginning together, and I pray that we will grow closer to one another and closer to God.

Composting

Despite a rise in goods [paper products] that are made to be compostable, most people don't have a way to actually compost their waste. Just 326 out of 19,000 municipalities have compost collection beyond yard waste pickup in the U.S." (N C Public Information Research Group.)

The good news is that Orange County is one of the municipalities that does provide waste and recycling centers where residents can take food waste, compostable paper products, and yard waste. And one is convenient to Pleasant Green at the Walnut Grove Church Road location just two minutes from the Farm and Garden Center on highway 86. (There is also a salvage shed there for reusable items in good condition.)

Why is composting important? When compost ends up in landfills, it decomposes into harmful methane gas which is 56 times stronger than carbon dioxide. But if disposed of properly, compostable waste will break down into nutrient-rich soil. Approximately 30% of material in landfills could be compostable.

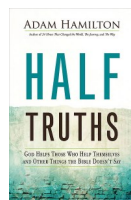
Some of us already compost - you could volunteer to make a presentation at one of the Pleasant Greeners luncheons and share your knowledge with others. If you are interested in composting but don't want a compost bin in your yard, you can collect your compost (food scraps, compostable paper) in a plastic container and once a week or so take it to the Walnut Grove Church Road recycling center. It is open 7am- 6pm, every week day but Wednesday and 7am-5 pm, on Saturday.

Interns, Keli Pennington & Michael Larbi led PG's first PEOPLE's SUPPER on July 30.



Join a Sunday School Class!

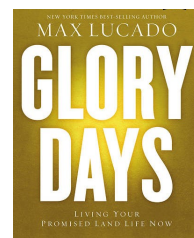
Clyde Walker Class



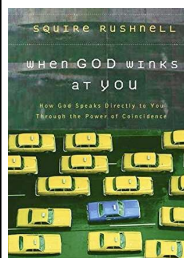
Adam Hamilton Explores Popular Sayings that Miss the Point ~ *God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say* ~ although they capture some element of truth, when compared to the wisdom found in Scripture, they're really just popular sayings.

Hearts & Hands Class

A DVD Study: *Living Your Promised Land Life Now* Life has a way of taking the life out of us. Often we go through situations where the challenge seems so much greater than our strength. During such times, we can find hope and inspiration from the story of Joshua. The same is true for us today. God is telling us that our best days--our "glory days"--are still ahead of us. We only need to grasp that truth and live in faith to realize this promise.



The Women's Class



When God Winks at You: How God Speaks Directly to You Through the Power of Coincidence ~ *When God Winks at You* is packed with true stories demonstrating that God does communicate with us, making incredible things happen in our lives every single day. Through these tangible signposts from God, we receive personalized messages that reassure us, stop us from worrying, chart our path in life, and help us keep the faith. *When God winks, He is reaffirming that there is absolutely nothing about us that He does not know - our every hurt, our every desire.*

On July 20, Common Thread ladies celebrated the retirement of Andrea Harris!



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTICIPANTS & VOLUNTEERS FOR A FUN PG SUMMER!



Thanks to Matt, Julie & George Ann McCay for "Cooking with Summer Campers!"



Intern Michael Larbi sharing his life story which began in Ghana.



Farmer Cindy Stubbs & daughter Lily share their farm life.



Randall, Francis, Agnes & children gave a great tour of Spring Forest Farm to Summer Campers!



Pastor Laura exercising with campers.

Thanks to:



Matt & Emily Milbert for the donation of Rose's playhouse. **We will miss y'all!**

Billy & Sandra Totten for the beautiful new bathroom sinks & countertops!!!



Gloria Perry, granddaughter, Emily, & Kathy Dulaney work on hall PG news bulletin board!

Pleasant Green Family News



Celebrating during Sunday School!

One Sunday, Janice Nicholson was waiting around after church while her husband Dennis was giving blood. She decided to move their car into a shadier area but was able only to get into the driveway because the emergency brake was on and she couldn't release it. She looked around and out came Michael Larbi who quickly came to her aid and released the brake. Isn't that what our pastors and student interns do for us all the time? They preach sermons and say prayers and read Scripture that help us get "unstuck" and move forward. They help us get to places where we can find cool breezes of comfort and encouragement.

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!





The United Methodist Women's
 "Christmas in July"
 Mission Project
THANKS TO ALL WHO GAVE

**PGUMC to Host Corridor District
 Lay Servant Ministries Classes**

Lay Servant Ministries is offering classes
 on Saturday, September 7, 2019
 from 7:30 am - 4:30 pm.



Eleanor Walker Circle
 September 9 at 7:00 pm



**Dinner to honor
 Eno Fire Department**
 Monday, September 9th
Please sign up in the Narthex to help!



Brunswick Stew Meeting
 Monday, September 9th at 6:30PM



Dream Weavers Circle
 7:00 pm— Tuesday, September 10th



Wednesday September 11th at 7pm
 Chancel Choir Practice Resumes



Church Cleanup
Saturday, September 14 ~ 8 am
PLEASE COME HELP
CLEANUP FOR HOMECOMING!



Prayer Team Meeting
 6:30pm Wednesday, September 18

Circle of Faith ~ Thursday, Sept. 19
 6:30 pm at Dogwood Cafe



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.*

Common Thread
A Ministry to Comfort the Dying
 Saturday, Sept 21 at 9:30am.



United Methodist Women

Sunday September 22
after 11:00 am Worship
UMW General Meeting
Lunch provided by Circle of Faith



Pleasant Greeners' Lunch
 Wednesday, September 25 at NOON

Lunch provided! Please come and enjoy
 food, fun and fellowship!
We welcome Courtney Sanford!

Bethany UMC Market (Vendor & Craft fair)
 2903 Guess Road
 Saturday, September 21 ~ 10am - 1pm

PGUMC Commemorative Plates

Celebrate our 187th year with a beautiful plate featuring the Old Sanctuary ~ \$25 each. Contact the church office to purchase plates.



Orange Congregations in Mission

BAKE SALE

Saturday, September 14 ~ 8am - 12pm

Assorted homemade baked goods for sale at the Farmer's Market in the UNC Hospital parking lot in Hillsborough.

Proceeds support our efforts to care for those in need in our community.







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

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Permit No. 5



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

Address Service Requested

 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.

On Hillsborough's LAST FRIDAYS – come by and see us at the Orange County United Methodist Churches booth!

 Please turn in **Afterschool Applications 2019 / 2020** 
 Celebrating the beginning of the **29th year of PGUMC Afterschool!**
 Website: pleasantgreenumc.org for more info


RONALD McDONALD FAMILY ROOM & PEDIATRIC UNIT AT DUKE HOSPITAL
Help family members & their children while at the hospital!

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| FAMILY NEEDS: | CHILDREN NEEDS: |
| Travel toiletries | New / Gently used clothing |
| Shower caps | Sizes (Premie – 18 yrs.) |
| Men: deodorant, shaving cream | T-shirts, Comfy pants |
| Women: feminine products | Socks, Underwear |
| Individual snacks | Any Boy outfits/Girl dresses |

 **Worship at the Eno**
Sunday, September 29
 One service ONLY at 10:30am
 Eno River State Park picnic shelter
 6101 Cole Mill Road
Please bring a dish ~ Ham provided

PGUMC 187th Homecoming Anniversary
 Homecoming September 15th ~ 11:00 am Worship Service
 Special Music ~ Chancel Choir and Praise Band
We will be “one worshipping congregation” on this special day.
(no 8:30 am service)
 We invite you to attend this celebration of building of new relationships and reunions of old friends. And plan to stay for the annual covered dish lunch following worship!