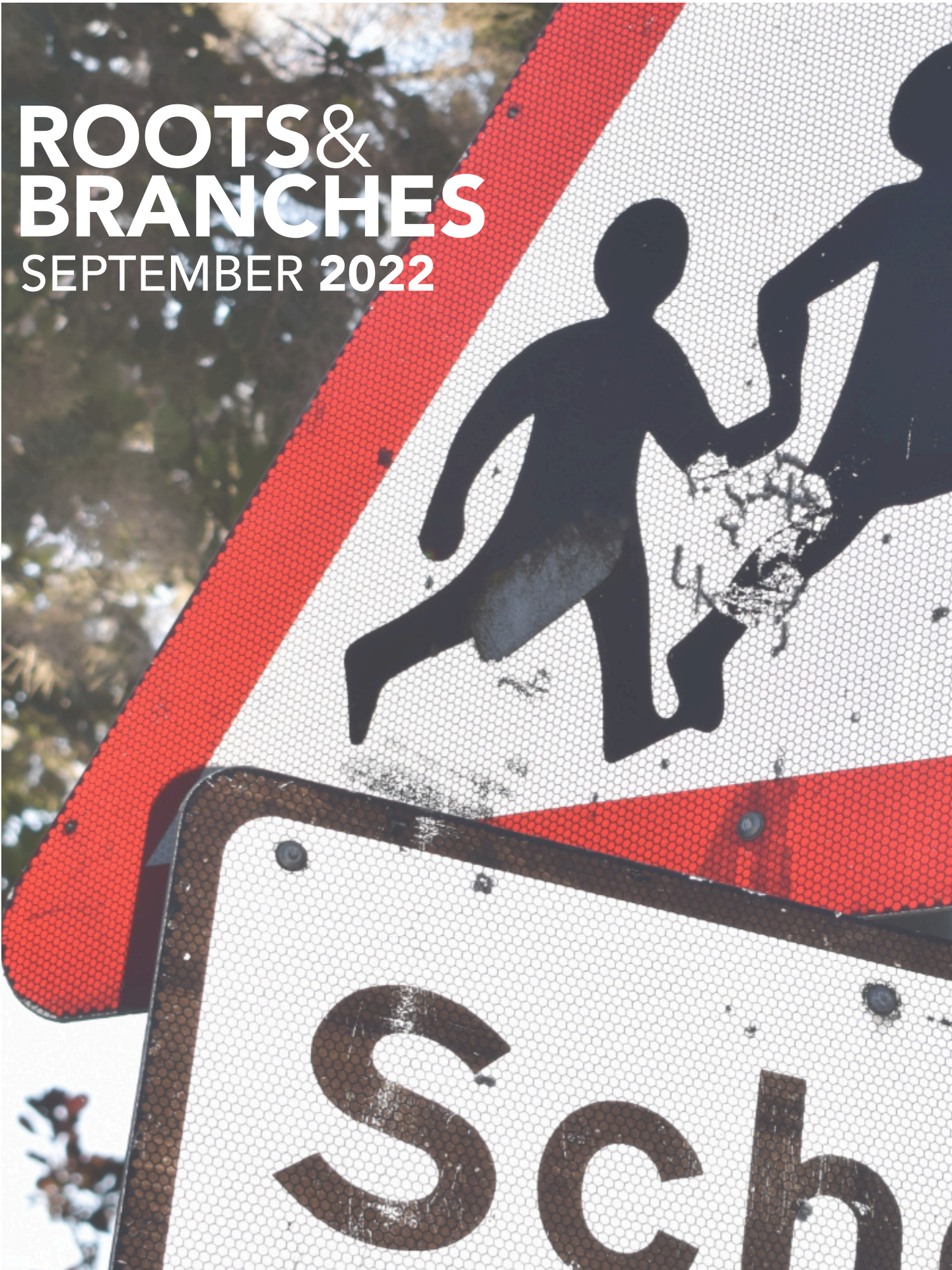


ROOTS & BRANCHES

SEPTEMBER 2022



Entertaining Angels

“*Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison. Keep your lives free from the love of money. When you throw a banquet, do not invite friends or relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return and you would be repaid. Invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.*”

We listened to these words from scripture read and proclaimed recently in our worship service (on August 28). Words of comfort and words of challenge – words that keep us accountable for taking seriously our call as disciples to be hospitable. Words that guide our thoughts, our actions, and our decisions. And truthfully, words that can often inconvenience us (inviting people who might not give us anything in return??)

Hospitality has always been at the heart of the Christian community. And a spirit of welcome has always been a value that Pleasant Green has lived so eloquently. In the past couple of months, we have been presented with several new opportunities to be a people of welcome and generosity. I wanted to take this moment to introduce some of our new neighbors that will be in and out of our church building this upcoming year.

Beginning in September, the ESL program will resume on Friday mornings. Please see page 4 for more information about this program!

In addition, “Roots: A Community School” will be using our space downstairs five days a week beginning in September. Van, our Trustee chair, myself, and the founder of the school, Kristen Jones, have been meeting regularly throughout the summer in order to set up a successful partnership.

Roots: A Community School is a Private Membership Association that offers a 5-day-a-week not-school program for families with children 8-13 years old. The best place to learn more about Roots is on their website (<https://www.roots-school.com>).

Lastly, I am so excited to share that Mark and Julie Weems have set up a “teaching studio” in one of our Sunday School classrooms. Mark and Julie offer private lessons in banjo, fiddle, ukulele, mandolin, bodhran (Irish drum), and even singing! To learn more, see page 3 for a brief introduction from Mark!

Henri Nouwen wrote that “hospitality is ‘creating space’ and it is not ‘space to change people,’ but to offer them space where change can take place.” As people of faith, we hold fast to the claim that we are not the ones who bring about change in peoples lives – that is the work of God and the Holy Spirit. However, we can provide space where that change might happen. And perhaps, because of our willingness to make room at our table, children’s live might be changed through learning and community. People’s lives might be changed through the gift of learning music. Immigrants might be changed by learning a new language and feeling welcomed. Maybe this fall, we will join in the holy work of entertaining angels without even knowing it.

Laura

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS

Each Fall, we rotate new leaders onto our Administrative Council and other leaders rotate off.

If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Laura for more details and information.

Our administrative council serves both spiritual and resource purposes in enabling the most impactful execution of the PGUMC mission. Our spiritual focus is to help build disciples of Jesus and our resources purpose is to oversee effective utilization of all our resources – human, financial, and physical – in creating the most nurturing environment to deliver upon our spiritual purpose.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

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

Children’s Church
During Worship, Old Sanctuary
[Volunteer here!](#)

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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

2022 Unified Budget	335,441.48
YTD Total Income to Operating Fund	167,382.87
TTD Operating Expenses	201,357.34
YTD Operating Fund Balance	-33,974.47
2021 Operating Fund Balance Forward	26,386.05
2022 Current Actual Operating Fund Balance	(7,588.42)
Current Building Mortgage Balance	163,019.67

THE NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC



Mark Weems is a diverse multi-instrumentalist and singer who plays guitar, banjo, fiddle, and mountain dulcimer, but is best known as a singer and composer. He has been studying the nuances of all types of country and folk music for over twenty years as a veteran of The Stillhouse Bottom Band, Little Windows, and his own honky-tonk band—the Cave Dwellers. *Sing Out! Magazine* recently called him “an exceptionally talented interpreter of old-time vocal and instrumental tunes” and “a gifted composer of timeless music.” His music has been heard on-stage at Merlefest, highlighted on the NPR programs Thistle and Shamrock and The State of Things, and is frequently heard on WUNC’s Back Porch Music. He currently tours professionally with his wife, Julee Glaub, as the duet Little Windows. He has taught master classes at the Irish Arts Week in New York, at Swannanoa Gathering in NC, and at the Alaska Traditional Music Camp, among others. www.littlewindows.net www.imyourdawg.com, www.reverbnation.com/markweemsandthecavedwellers

Julee Glaub performs and teaches nationally and abroad and plays guitar, flute, and bodhran, though her first love is traditional Irish song. Living in Dublin for seven years, she immersed herself in traditional singing; and upon returning home, became involved in the Irish music scene in the Northeast, where she quickly became recognized as a leading interpreter of Irish song in America. Julee has been on the staff of the Irish Arts Week, the Alaska Traditional Music Camp, and the Schloss Mittershill Arts Conference in Austria, among others. She is also the coordinator for Traditional Song Week at the Swannanoa Gathering here in NC. juleeglaub.com

CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP MEAL & ORANGE CO. MEELS ON WHEELS

Wednesday, September 14th at 6 pm.

The Eleanor Walker Circle is sponsoring this event and will be providing the meats to include fried chicken, ham and meatballs. Bring a side dish and join the fellowship! If you are unable to bring a side dish you are still welcome at this table!

PROMOTE THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE as we gather by bringing an item of shelf stable items to be distributed to Orange Co. Meals on Wheels recipients.

Donation requests: Protein based entree that have pop tops or easy peel, small jar creamy peanut butter, small jam without seeds, soft granola or cereal bars, individual cups of fruit packed in their own juice, small bottles of fruit or fruit/vegetable juice blends, 2 pack toilet paper, 1 roll paper towels, box of tissues.

If you are able to come early we will be arranging small vases of flowers gleaned from Fire Fly Farm to be delivered to OCMOW recipients.

NC DIAPER DRIVE PROJECT

Collecting diapers through the end of September.



LEADING BIBLE STUDY

Ever had the desire to teach a Bible Study but unsure of how to do it? Or maybe you just never considered yourself "a teacher"?

The Center for Leadership Excellence AND Lay Servant Ministries is offering a four-session virtual course for laity - Leading Bible Study. This is a great opportunity for us - as a church - to equip more leaders for the work of ministry.

Thursdays, September 29, October 6, 13, & 20, 2022 6:30pm - 8:30pm ET on Zoom

Registration - \$25 (If you are interested and would like the church to cover this cost, email Laura).

GLOBAL FRIENDS ESL PROGRAM

Friday classes are back at PGUMC Sept. 9! 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Snack donations needed!

Please consider contributing the following items: juice boxes, 8 oz. water bottles, boxes of individual tea bags (green tea, flavored tea, etc.), animal crackers, Annie's Organic Bunny Fruit snacks, individually wrapped snacks such as Pepperidge Farm cookies, Biscotti, Belvita cookies, Biscoff cookies, etc. Drop off in the Narthex!

Volunteers needed!

Come help set-up/cleanup Church area, transport families to/from Pleasant Green, provide snacks, assist with childcare and ESL classes.

Volunteer Registration Form: bit.ly/GFESLvol

The Global Friends ESL program is a collaborative effort of The Church at Spring Forest, Durham Home Church Network, and PGUMC. We work in partnership with World Relief. Our certified ESL teachers and program volunteers are passionate about welcoming our newest global neighbors and supporting English language acquisition as a major part of companioning refugees in rebuilding their lives here in the US. We welcome all people without discrimination, based on race, gender, religion, or sexuality. While the Global Friends ESL program is grounded in the Christian practice of hospitality, we are ecumenical and do not proselytize volunteers or students.

Contact Wendy Anderson for questions 919.630.1939 / wen_a@nc.rr.com.

2022-2023

PLEASANT GREEN AFTERSCHOOL

We are gearing up for PGUMC Afterschool! If you would be interested in volunteering for our homework support program (Mondays-Thursdays, 4:30-5 pm), please email Susan at susan_adams2@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Links below for information & registration:
[Afterschool Application](#)
[Afterschool Manual](#)
[Afterschool Calendar](#)



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. The children love gathering together during worship to sing, dance, act out Bible stories, and applying them through games and crafts. Please consider volunteering for children's church to see child like faith in action and play!

Please consider volunteering. [Sign up here!](#)

2022 PGUMC ONLINE AUCTION

Going LIVE Monday, October 3 through Saturday, October 8!

We are excited to kick off this year's annual Online Auction! **Last year was a huge success and we raised more than \$11,000!** Let's aim even higher this year! We are so grateful for your part in helping the United Women in Faith raise funds for our missions!

Donations can be left in the Seekers Classroom #217 (across from the Church office)— preferably by September 25! Please include this [donation form](#) with your item(s). Forms are also available in the narthex and Seekers classroom. Thank you to those who have already donated!

For food, vacation stays or items you plan to donate but don't have on hand yet—please email pictures and the donation form to Alicja at alicjalink57@gmail.com. If you are donating the same items as last year, we are happy to re-use pictures and descriptions.

We need auctions items!

Please consider donating items to auction off this year! *Examples: gift cards, vacation stays, handmade goods, home decor, baked goods, home cooked meals, art, experiences, vintage and collectable items, jewelry...*

Spread the word!

Please share with your family and friends. We hope to reach even more people this year and reach our goal! With many fantastic donations, there is something for everyone and every budget!

Thank you for your support!

UWF of Pleasant Green United Methodist Church



SEPTEMBER

					1 Heather Snowden Hackler	2 Jason Bennett Lois Rittenhouse	3 James Hamm
4 WORSHIP, 10:30 am	5 Michael Walker	6 MEMBERSHIP COMM. MEETING, 6:30 pm READ & SEED, 6:30 pm FireFly Farm- 4911 Hunt Road Matt McCay	7 CHOIR REHEARSAL, 7:30 pm September 6 - 9: Our Sanctuary will be unavailable for modifications and upgrades to the space.	8	9 ESL CLASS (pg 4) 10:30 am-12:30 pm ROOTS: Meet & Greet (pg 2) 4:30-6 pm, Fellowship Hall Shari Metzger	10 Sybil Totten Clayton Carolyn Bass	
11 WORSHIP, 10:30 am BACK TO SCHOOL BASH Church & Community wide 4-6 pm Taylor McCay Doris Turner Jim Perry	12 ROOTS: First day of school (pg 2) FALL STEW MEETING, 6:30 pm PRAISE BAND PRACTICE, 7:15 pm Lydia Mis Patrick Bracey	13 BLOOD DRIVE at PGUMC 10 am-3 pm -Sign up at redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: Pleasant Green) Madilyn Keatts	14 FELLOWSHIP DINNER, 6 pm, Covered dish dinner in the Fellowship Hall (pg 3) CHOIR REHEARSAL, 7:30 pm Christa Poe	15 Leah Parrish Kristian Kankelfritz	16 ESL CLASS (pg 4) 10:30 am-12:30 pm ROOTS: Guest Speaker Jean Moser - Dyslexia: Getting to the Root of the Problem. 4-6 pm RSVP to carol@roots-school.com Becky Crawford Alex Witt	17	
18 WORSHIP, 10:30 am UWF MEETING YOUTH, 4-6 pm Joyce Duncan Joy Weaver Evelyn Morris Hannah Barnard	19 ELEANOR WALKER CIRCLE 7 pm PRAISE BAND PRACTICE, 7:15 pm Michael Erexson Spencer Alley	20 CIRCLE OF FAITH, 6:30 pm Jimmy Gooch, Robbie Bryant Pat Walker, Marilyn Guthrie Waldo Wright	21 FALL SMALL GROUP, 6 pm Details to come PRAYER MINISTRY, 6:30 pm CHOIR REHEARSAL, 7:30 pm Hunter Brown Ryan Montgomery	22	23 ESL CLASS (pg 4) 10:30 am-12:30 pm Sarah Fisher Tim Riley	24 NATIONAL DAY OF VOLUNTEER YOUTH MINISTRY TRAINING, Soapstone UMC, Raleigh NC trainmyvolunteers.com COMMON THREAD 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall Phillip Totten	
25 WORSHIP AT THE ENO 10:30 am Rosemary Fowler	26 Maya Lee	27 ADMIN COUNCIL MEETING 7-8 pm	28 CHOIR REHEARSAL, 7:30 pm Bunny Wheeler Nell Andrews	29 LEADING BIBLE STUDY COURSE, Zoom 6:30-8:30 pm (pg 4) Kelly Jo Lee Lynn Foushee	30 ESL CLASS (pg 4) 10:30 am-12:30 pm David Ball Kathy DuLaney Sheila Witt Billy O'Briant		



**Sunday Worship at the Eno
September 25, 10:30 am**

OCTOBER:

October 3-8: Online Auction
See more info on page 5

October 9: Homecoming
With Rev. Pastor Larry Bowden
& covered dish to follow service.

October 18: Charge Conference

October 23: Fall Retreat
Sponsored by the Administrative
Council. Mark your calendars for a
fun Sunday afternoon– stay tuned
for more details!

2022 EL SALVADOR MISSION TRIP



The PGUMC El Salvador team departed for Ahuachapán, El Salvador on July 22nd. The team members are: Jim Perry, Wendy Anderson, Brian Wingo, Mark Stocking, Robin Derr, Millie Nichols, Glisceria Vindas, Jed Hampton and Will Hampton. We worked on a second floor to the El Salvador Methodist School. This included building forms for columns, mixing concrete on the floor and pouring the concrete into the forms. We also made supports for the columns out of rebar. The plan is to have the second floor completed by August 31st. The school that we support with money donations currently enrolls approximately 500 students.

We raised \$1200.00 to be used for Food Distribution. The food was purchased in Ahuachapán since the prices are cheaper than in the states. We were able to prepare 100 bags of food that include rice, beans, cooking oil, and cookies. One bag of food will feed a family of four for two days. We distributed about 35 bags. The remaining bags will be distributed by the Methodist Church. We went to individual homes, with the families, asked if they had a request for prayer and prayed with them. Then, we gave them a bag of food.

We held Bible School each morning in La Gloria for three days. There were about 30 children that attended along with several of the parents. Our theme this year was "God will provide" based on Philippians 4:19. We borrowed lesson ideas from our recent Food Truck Party VBS: God provides manna and quail; Jesus feeds the 5,000; and cast your nets on the other side. During Bible School the children acted out the Bible stories, played games, sang songs, made crafts, and ate yummy snacks. It was such a blessing to share God's love and provision with the families.

We are so grateful for all of the prayers and support from our Pleasant Green family which allows us the opportunity to serve our Salvadoran neighbors.



HOMES FOR OUR TROOPS

Dream Weavers volunteering for Homes for our Troops on Pleasant Green Road!



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
- Dark Chocolate Mint Crunch (67%)
- Very Dark Chocolate (71%)
- Milk Chocolate
- Milk Chocolate Caramel Crunch & sea salt
- Chocolate with Coconut Milk (55%)



The NCUMC Conference has two separate advance special numbers for giving to Ukraine. One is for refugees who have fled outside the Ukraine (982450). The other is for aid inside the Ukraine (14063A). Givers choose where their money should go.

Please make checks payable to PGUMC with # or Ukraine refugees / Ukraine aid on memo line.

REFLECTIONS

As Methodists, we are now in the second period of “Ordinary Time” in our Christian calendar. This is “where we see, speak about and join God’s ongoing work in the world.” <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-is-ordinary-time>. For those of us who attended the Good Friday service in the Chapel on April 15th, we were exposed to heart-felt, emotional, and scripture-based testimony about how the last words and phrases of Jesus Christ on the cross affects us. We are continuing to reprint some of those presentations. In fact, this is the last reflection in the Good Friday series. The words are profound; calling us to put into action what we learned on Good Friday, every day.



“It is Finished” (John 19:30), by Ceil Matthew

It is finished – done – over. The work is complete.

Jesus said, “It is finished.”

Well, to those Jews standing on the edge of the crowd, you know, Jesus’ mother, the disciple whom he loved, the women ... those that Jesus spoke to earlier from the cross. They would have recognized the significance of the word we translate as “It is finished.”

“Each year, on the Jewish holiday called The Day of Atonement, the High Priest would enter into the temple and make a special sacrifice for the sins of the people of Israel.” After the sacrifice the priest would emerge and declare to the waiting crowd “it is finished.”

In New Testament times, when an employee had completed a day’s work or finished a project, he would tell his boss “It is finished” This was to signal that whatever it was that he was assigned to do was now completed.

When an artist would complete a piece of art, he would have a moment of unveiling where he would declare “It is finished” No more touch-ups or adjustments are necessary, the work is done.

Maybe the most common use of “It is finished” in Jesus’ day was in debt collecting. When a person finally paid off a loan, they were issued a receipt that was stamped with the same word we translate as “it is finished” or in this case “paid in full”. This was verification that they were no longer responsible for any of that debt, that everything they owed was completely and permanently paid for.

When Jesus came into this world, he had a job to do. Over three years of ministry he told his disciples and those that were listening what this would mean. But they didn’t get what he was saying. Maybe they didn’t want to believe or maybe they just couldn’t grasp the depth of it.

Here we have Jesus’ own words “It is finished.” Jesus was telling everyone his work has been accomplished. Not imperfect or temporary like the priest sacrifices in the temple, but complete. Our sins were “Paid in full.”

Jesus has communicated a beautiful truth – that he completed the work of salvation once and for all. That means it is not up to us to add anything, complete anything, finalize anything when it comes to our salvation – Jesus did it all.

SEPTEMBER: SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

NAVIGATING
a mental health **CRISIS**

WARNING SIGNS of Suicide

- ◆ Giving away personal possessions
- ◆ Talking as if saying goodbye or going away forever
- ◆ Taking steps to tie up loose ends, like organizing personal papers or paying off debts
- ◆ Making or changing a will
- ◆ Collecting and saving pills or buying a weapon
- ◆ Saying things like “Nothing matters anymore,” “You’ll be better off without me”
- ◆ Withdrawing from friends, family and normal activities
- ◆ Increasing drug or alcohol use

WHAT TO DO if You Suspect Someone is Thinking About Suicide

If you notice warning signs, or if you’re concerned someone is thinking about suicide, don’t be afraid to talk to them about it.

START the conversation by sharing specific signs you’ve noticed, like:

“I’ve noticed lately that you [haven’t been sleeping, aren’t interested in soccer anymore, are posting a lot of sad song lyrics online, etc.]...”

Then say something like:

- ✓ “Are you thinking about suicide?”
- ✓ “Do you have a plan?”
- ✓ “Do you know how you would do it?”

If the answer to any of these questions is “yes,” seek help immediately.

- ◆ Don’t leave them alone and stay calm
- ◆ Call their therapist or other health care professional
- ◆ Remove potential means, such as weapons and medications
- ◆ Call the National Suicide Prevention Line at 1-800-273-8255 or call 911
- ◆ If the situation is life-threatening, call 911 and ask for someone with mental health experience to respond, like a Crisis Intervention Team.

LISTEN, EXPRESS CONCERN, REASSURE

“ I may not understand exactly how you feel, but I care about you and want to help. ”

“ I’m concerned about you and I want you to know there is help to get you through this. ”

“ You are important to me; we will get through this together. ”

NAMI HelpLine | NAMI | NAMICommunicate | NAMICommunicate | www.nami.org | **NAMI** National Alliance on Mental Illness



Pleasant Green

United Methodist Church



PleasantGreenUMC.org | pgumc@ncrrbiz.com | 919.383.5764

Pastor

Rev. Laura Thompson
lthompson@nccumc.org

Director of Family Ministries

Emily Robbian
emily.robbian@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

September 13th at PGUMC
10 am-3 pm

To sign up, contact the Church office at 919.383.5764 or pgumc@ncrrbiz.com or go to redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: Pleasant Green)

PLEASE
RECYCLE