



ROOTS & BRANCHES

APRIL 2021

PleasantGreenUMC.org

Summer 2017. I was a few weeks in to a new appointment. The boxes were unpacked, things were put away neatly, perhaps the first molecules of dust were even starting to collect. It was a quiet evening when I finally could sit down and reflect and process all that had taken place. I was finally getting still for the first time. A deep silence fell. Settling in and paying attention to my surroundings, I was suddenly feeling quite small and starting to wonder how little Huck (my cat) and I would fill such a large home. I pulled out my journal and started writing. It is no wonder we shy away from silent, reflective moments because these are precisely when answers often come to us. Sometimes, answers we do not want to receive. That quiet night, with a dim light shining, and a blank journal page in my lap, I knew deep inside how I would fill these rooms. “Here, there is space for grief to move in,” I scribbled on that page. Like an unwanted roommate, you will learn to live together. And over time, you will become friends. Over time, you will befriend your grief.

Having buried two grandmothers and marking a one-year Anniversary of a pandemic, where all of us have lost a way of life, there is no doubt that grief has moved in and decided to stay. Once upon a time, I probably thought that grief was a season. Something you endure for a time and then it passes. Of course, as I have learned to live with it, I now understand that, yes, there are seasons of deep grief marked by an acute loss, but really, it is part of the everyday experience of being human. A constant companion. A roommate, if we so choose to embrace it. No longer something we only feel after a tragedy, but something we walk with every day. Of course, this does not mean that we walk around being sad all the time. But it does mean that we bear witness to all that is true in our lives: both the joy and the sorrow. Tish Harrison Warren describes it this way, “Our bright and shining lives, our explosions of joy, good work, and love, are always silhouetted by the shadow of death. There are times when sorrow quickens and sharpens, towering and unavoidable, and times it recedes. But it remains the white noise of all of human experience.”

We come in to this new month, into April, being greeted by this Easter story yet again. And it seems that each year, I find myself being drawn to a different aspect of this familiar story. Last year, it was Mary quietly revisiting the grave all alone that

morning. I remember well arriving at church on Easter Sunday – alone – in the wee hours of the morning, having to live this resurrection story in a very real and new way. Feeling so close to Mary, who arrived at a tomb, where death lives. In the dark. Without any witnesses. This year, I am drawn to Jesus’ identification as being “a man of sorrows,” a title that originates with the prophet Isaiah (53:3). Of course, there are other names for Jesus: pioneer, perfecter of faith, suffering servant, Son of Man. But this year, after a year of living in a pandemic, I am drawn to the sorrow that even Jesus embraced and lived.

People often want to know what God is like and why a so-called “good” God can let terrible things happen in the world. The events of Holy Week and Easter point us to God-in-the flesh and reminds us that God enters in to the suffering of humanity. God, in the person of Jesus, is well acquainted with the sorrows of this life. This ought to give us courage – courage to embrace the suffering, to befriend the grief. Somehow, someway, this helps us live in to our identity as people of God, made in God’s image, unafraid to befriend the griefs of our lives and world, because we know that a day will come when God will wipe away every tear. We know a morning will come when we also will rise early so that we can proclaim hope in the face of despair, light in the midst of darkness, resurrection to an empty tomb. Yes, it is the time of year when we gather with loud shouts of Hosanna, when we rejoice at the blooming of spring, and Boldly proclaim “Alleluia! He is Risen indeed!” And all the while, like a roommate living alongside us, like white noise in the background of every experience, this is the year we will not forget Mary weeping, the silence of Holy Saturday, the mystery and fear of staring into a clammy, cold tomb. May we befriend it. May we embrace. May we bear witness to the resurrecting God-with-us. All of us.

Pastor Laura



LENT HOLY WEEK EASTER SUNDAY

April 1: Maundy Thursday

At-home liturgy to be a guided meditation for you and your families.

April 2: Good Friday

Stations of the Cross: This service honors the ancient story of Jesus’ death while recognizing the ways this narrative repeats itself again and again throughout the past and the present. We will be sharing in this guided walking meditation across our church grounds several time throughout the day on Good Friday. People are encouraged to wear shoes appropriate for walking trails and a mask. The walking meditative experience will include scripture, music, art, and reflections. You are invited to attend at 9am and 12 noon.

April 4: Easter Sunday

We will have two in-person services that morning as an opportunity for people to gather for worship. One will be at sunrise and the second will be at 10:30am, our regular scheduled worship time. These services will be the same service – so no need to come to both. We are working on making sure that the second service will be Live-Streamed for the people who are more comfortable staying home. *we will have an online option that day.*

We are asking people to: bring their own chair to worship, wear a mask, and social distance. We discourage hugging and hand-shaking.



Worship In April

April 4
Easter Sunday
In-person outdoors
6:30am sunrise & 10:30am

April 11
Online, 10:30am

April 18
In-person outdoors, 10:30am

April 25
Online, 10:30am

Based on the survey responses, we (the Leadership who convened at the Connectional Table meeting on 3/15), have decided on this worship scheduled for the month of April:



back row, left to right
Emily Johnson, Maddie Keatts

front row, left to right
Annabelle Godwin, Elizabeth Johnson, Maya Lee,
Daisy LaBarre, Beau LaBarre, Bode Lee



OUTDOORS & IN-PERSON!

The Youth will be meeting in-person (outdoors & distanced) on Sunday afternoons starting April 11th, 4pm at our Eno House location– 903 Eno Street.

Financial Update

2021 Unified Budget	327,037.42
YTD Total Income to Operating Fund	58,657.98
YTD Operating Expenses	64,577.36
YTD Operating Fund Balance	-5,919.38
2020 Operating Fund Balance Forward	18,065.45
2021 Current Actual Operating Fund Balance	12,146.07
Current Building Mortgage Balance	231,146.82

2021 Pleasant Green Summer Camp!

Monday–Friday, 7:30am–5:45pm at PGUMC

Week # 1: June 21 ~VBS in the mornings

Week # 2: July 12 ~ Chestnut Ridge Traveling Camp



Mark your calendars for summer fun! More news to come!

*PG Summer Camp Scholarships Needed!

We are hopeful the scheduled 2 weeks of Summer Camp will be possible. All donations for scholarships are appreciated! Make checks payable to PGUMC with Summer Camp on the memo line. Thank you!

2021 Vacation Bible School!

Week of June 21 ~ Mornings

Quest for the King's Armor, invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power!



WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER!

Baby Ruby Dawn Leonard

Little Hero to Heather & Joel Leonard

And grandparents Wayne & Terri Leonard

Born 2-1-21 at 9:17 am

weighing 7 pounds & 15 ounces



Pastor Laura & Charles



You're invited:

Church-Wide Outdoor Wedding Shower

Pleasant Green UMC Grounds
Sunday, May 23 ~floating 3-5pm

Come celebrate with fellowship,
friends & refreshments!

theknot.com/
lauraandcharleskinstonnec



Getting the bus ready for summer camp.

2021 Pleasant Green United Methodist Men's Building & Grounds Fundraiser



PINE STRAW SALE \$6.00 Per Bale

Available for pick-up at church or delivery by UMM.
Free delivery for orders of 5 bales of pine straw within 10 miles of the church. Other deliveries are \$10

Order forms are in the Narthex or email PGUMC@ncrrbiz.com.

For questions contact Jim Crawford- 919-383-5636 or
jimwcraw@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support!

JONI & FRIENDS WHEELS FOR THE WORLD



Each year, an estimated 75,000 wheelchairs are thrown away in the United States, while 20 million people worldwide desperately need a wheelchair. You can make a difference by providing the gift of mobility to people with disabilities in less resourced countries. Wheels for the World, a ministry of Joni and Friends, provides a free wheelchair, along with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to children and adults affected by disabilities.

All wheelchairs collected are transported to Wheels for the World Restoration Centers located at correctional facilities where inmates restore the wheelchairs to like-new conditions. The wheelchairs are then shipped to less resourced countries around the world. Teams made up of volunteer physical therapists and wheelchair mechanics, then fit each wheelchair to an individual and provide training in the wheelchair's maintenance. Team members also present each individual with a Bible and Gospel message. The gift of mobility and the hope of salvation will change the lives of these individuals and their families forever.

Wheelchair Drive

Saturdays:

April 10th 9am-11am

April 17th 1pm-3pm

April 24th 9am-11am

Pleasant Green UMC

3005 Pleasant Green Road,
Durham 27705

Please consider donating to our wheelchair drive on behalf of Wheels for the World! We will collect manual, adult and pediatric wheelchairs as well as wheelchair footrests.

For more information, contact
Nancy Maloney (603) 370-2474

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Read & Seed Patch 6:30pm <i>Chris Best Tyler Johnson Jack Mattochs Jody Moore</i>	2 Good Friday Stations of the Cross 9am/12pm <i>Kevin Punt Laura Bullock Finley Christian Overaker</i>	3 <i>Christopher Martin</i>
4 Easter Sunday Outdoor Service 6:30am Sunrise 10:30am	5	6 <i>Davis Whitfield</i>	7 <i>Laura Cox</i>	8 <i>Phil Ray Jim Rodgers</i>	9 <i>Hunter Chapmon</i>	10 Wheelchair Drive 9-11am <i>Kevin Nicholson Jo Anna Walker Brown</i>
11 Online Service 10:30am <i>Julia Morris Marsha Phillips</i>	12 <i>Sarah Black Ian Casker</i>	13 FOOD FOR ALL	14 Bible Study 10:30am <i>Kim Berini</i>	15 Circle of Faith 6:30pm <i>Katy Johnson Larry Morris</i>	16 <i>Katy White Anna Grace Dehmer</i>	17 Wheelchair Drive 1-3pm
18 Outdoor Service 10:30am <i>Tim Shelton</i>	19 <i>Lisa Best</i>	20	21 Blood Drive 10am-3pm Bible Study 10:30am Prayer Ministry 6:30pm <i>Laura Thompson</i>	22 <i>Wendy Gooch Beth Whitfield</i>	23	24 Wheelchair Drive 9-11am <i>Sara Collins Clark</i>
25 Online Service 10:30am <i>Stephen Bass Lori Link Sollenberger</i>	26 <i>Luke Jacks Vikki Sutton</i>	27	28	29 <i>Aaron Carlyle</i>	30 <i>Will Walker Thomas Huffman</i>	



Read & Seed Patch 4/1
Reading *The Underground Railroad* by Colsen Whitehead.
This book takes a turn, mixing in history with a touch of fantasy.
Join us if you can and book suggestions are always welcome!
We are now meeting using this Zoom link though PGUMC so that we can meet without interruptions. And, you can call in if you prefer to join by phone.
Zoom Meeting: <https://nccumc.zoom.us/j/99801109814>
Meeting ID: 998 0110 9814

Prayer Ministry 4/21
Contact Gail at pruettg4mh@gmail.com for more information, meeting ID and passcode. All are welcome to join!

Blood Drive - 4/21
To sign up, contact the Church office at pgumc@ncrrbiz.com / 919-383-5764 or go to redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: Pleasant Green)



*Permission to use: The James Tissot Collection, Brooklyn Museum/FreeBibleimages.org

50 GREAT DAYS

We've recently marked the milestone of living in a pandemic for over a year. But now our president has set July 4th as a goal for when life might start beginning to return to normal if enough people get vaccinated and if we continue to wear masks and avoid crowds.

During the pandemic, time seemed to slow down for many people because each day was much like the day before. Recently some of us have been able to record upcoming events on our calendars: first Covid shot; then either three weeks or four weeks until the next one. We already know the value of having specific markers on our calendars – the four Sundays in Advent; the 40 days of Lent.

Another aspect of the liturgical calendar that we might appreciate more than ever are the “Fifty Great Days” from Easter, on April 4, to Pentecost, on May 23. The original 50 days for the disciples was a time of growing understanding. After the confusing, heart-breaking events of Holy Week when they scattered and hid out fearing for their lives, they began to come together again and the risen Christ appeared to them

in small groups and in larger settings. The realization that Jesus had died, yet lived again changed their perspective. Jesus told them to be patient as they waited to receive power. Growing up Jewish, the disciples had always known that Passover was followed 50 days later by Pentecost, one of the harvest festivals. But now they were experiencing a different kind of exodus and a new kind of harvest over which to rejoice.

How can we observe the fifty great days from Easter, when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus which means new life for us all, until Pentecost when the power of the Holy Spirit brought the church into being? We can follow the example of the disciples, waiting for the Lord's guidance, seeing signs of Jesus' presence, and being open to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. And maybe during that period of prayerful expectant waiting, we will be able to anticipate, once again, being able to join together in person-still wearing our masks and not shaking hands but nevertheless together.

-Janice Nicholson



A Life well lived.

Dr. Mickey Efird, a Presbyterian pastor and professor emeritus at Duke Divinity School, died earlier this spring. Quite a few Pleasant Green members benefitted from the Bible studies he taught through the Divinity School Lay Academy. Some may have occasionally skipped church at PGUMC to hear him preach at one of the churches he served in as an interim supply pastor. Some of those who regularly participated in his classes included Ron Overaker and Max and Mary Lou Mitchell, Eleanor Walker and Ruby Martin, now part of the heavenly communion of saints. Dr. Efird lived on Pleasant Green Road and preached Homecoming at PGUMC in 2004.

2021 Donations for the Pleasant Green Community Center

Our community has a treasure in the Pleasant Green Community Center. It provides a place for many happy occasions for those of us at Pleasant Green UMC. There have been multiple improvements that have been completed in the past couple of years. Most recently, as of February 2020, we have new windows! Other improvements: the bottom five rows of German siding (to match the original siding) were replaced and painted, the water heater was replaced, a new well was drilled with a new well pump and all water lines were replaced. Extensive work was completed on the sewer system and drain field as well.

Due to COVID, the Community Center has not been rented in the last year. This leaves no income with improvements still needing to be paid for. We hope you will join us in preserving and celebrating the life we share in this building. Donations are appreciated!

Please make checks to PG Community Center and mail to treasurer: Sandy Quinn at 3311 Grady Lane, Durham 27705.



2021 Summer Browning Scholarships

In memory of Summer Browning, a scholarship fund was established in 1993 by her parents, family and friends. Scholarships are offered to entering students and students already enrolled in an undergraduate program at a four-year college or university.

Factors considered: Church membership & service, Academic Record, Community Service and Need.

Please call the church office for an application.



Thanks to everyone working on the rose garden fence!

GIVE DONATE HELP SHARE VOLUNTEER PRAY



United Methodist Committee on Relief

Please consider donating to the U.S. Disaster Response and enable UMCOR to serve people impacted by the catastrophic wind, rain and fire events of this season. Help to provide the tangible items necessary for relief work and personal protective equipment that our volunteers will need to stay healthy.



Donations Needed:

Diapers sizes 1,2,3,4
Toilet paper
Paper towels
Bath towels
Toothpaste
Bleach
Clorox disinfectant wipes
Brooms/Dust pans
Small bottles of dish soap
Low-sugar juice boxes
Vitamin Water zero
Gatorade zero
Sugar-free water bottle packs
New bedding (twin/full)

The United Methodist Women's "Christmas in July" Mission Project

Thank you to those who have donated "Back to School" classroom items for Orange County Schools! These are available in our Narthex for those who need them.



Habitat for Humanity in Hillsborough!

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County brings people together to build homes, communities and hope. To help, please contact Jim Perry at perryjames@twc.com.



Thank you for keeping our cart in the Narthex full! Please continue to donate to the food pantry for those who are food insecure in our community. Other items such as hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes and other cleaning supplies are needed! Volunteers at OCIM are welcome and financial donations can be made via check or paypal at www.ocimnc.org.

Support UMCOR's Coffee & Chocolate Project!



Ground Coffee bags \$8

Mind Body Soul Regular 12oz
Mind Body Soul Decaf 12oz

Organic Chocolate bars \$2.50

Very Dark Chocolate (71%)
Panama Extra Dark Chocolate (80%)
Dark Chocolate Whole Almond & sea salt (55%)
Dark Chocolate Caramel Crunch & sea salt
Dark Chocolate Mint Crunch (67%)
Dark Chocolate Orange (65%)
Milk Chocolate
Chocolate with Coconut Milk (55%)
Milk Chocolate Caramel Crunch & sea salt

This fair trade economic model 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.



PGUMC
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

Youth Parish Coordinator:
Carsten Bryant
carsten.bryant@duke.edu

WAYS TO GIVE

ONLINE: www.PleasantGreenUMC.org

SMARTPHONE: Text "PleasantGreen" To: 77977

ENVELOPE: Mail or slip under office door

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 in advance for your generosity!

DOWNLOAD THE PGUMC APP

APP STORE: Search "Pleasant Green UMC"

SMARTPHONE: Text "PleasantGreenapp" To: 77977

Download and Explore! It's free! One of the features we're excited to share through this app is a "Daily Prayer." A place where you can click for a Bible verse, prayer, and thought of the day. A daily gift and inspiration for the whole family right at your fingertips.



Blood Drive at PGUMC

Wednesday, April 21 (10am-3pm)

To sign up, contact the Church office at
pgumc@ncrrbiz.com / 919-383-5764
or go to redcrossblood.org
(sponsor code: Pleasant Green)

amazonsmile

Support PGUMC when you purchase through amazon smile. They will donate 0.5% of your purchase price on eligible products to the "Pleasant Green United Methodist Church" charitable organization. We hope you'll consider this as we continue to find creative & generous ways to share resources together. Already have an Amazon Prime account? Go to smile.amazon.com and use your existing Amazon Prime account login. Pleasant Green's unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-1152936>

**PLEASE
RECYCLE**

