



PleasantGreen  
*United Methodist Church*

PleasantGreenUMC.org

## ***Roots & Branches***

**April 2016**



### **Not to Condemn, But to Save**

**Rev. Dr. Jesse Brunson**

***<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17 NIV)***

Why is it that we are so quick and glib in quoting John 3:16, and not John 3:17? Why do we stop at verse 16 when 17 is just as important? Maybe, in this world of dying churches and unchurched people longing for a spiritual home, even as they look past us with contempt, verse 17 is more important. How often are we confronted with the objection that “Christians” are too judgmental, too self-righteous, too quick to consign to hell four-fifths of the human race?

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him”; that’s what we are about; that’s the message we are to proclaim to all the world. God, in Jesus Christ, came into the world, and is in the world, not to condemn but to save, not to judge but to acquit! That’s why I’m here, Jesus says. “I didn’t come as a judge or a lawgiver. We’ve got enough laws already. Anyway, law can’t save; it can only tell us what’s wrong. Law can’t save; you want to be saved; look at me!”

Jesus brings light, God’s light, the light of God’s Spirit. There is plenty of darkness in the world. Jesus came to shine a light, to be light. He didn’t come to shove people into darkness. He doesn’t push people into darkness. God does not throw people into darkness. People choose darkness. But the light is still there, and the darkness does not overcome it. Have you had enough darkness? Do you want light? Look at Jesus. Believe in Jesus. Follow Jesus, without looking to the right or to the left, choose Jesus.

This is not a call to pass judgment on people of other faiths, or of no faith. Look and you will find that there are indeed people in this world who want nothing to do with Jesus or his followers or “light” or anything he stands for; Jesus is indeed warning us about such people in this passage. Don’t worry about them. Let them go scurrying off into their various dark places. Oh, we need to refrain from passing judgment. We need to be ready to welcome them if they come scurrying out of those dark places; more quickly than they went scurrying into them. (Dark places have a way of doing that to people.) But don’t worry about them.

So, does this mean that non-Christians are then condemned? There are a number of opinions about that too. You no doubt have yours. Others have theirs. Don’t worry about that, either. That’s not what this is about. There are indeed people out there who love darkness rather than light, and who willfully and consciously seek darkness because they want nothing to do with the kind of light that Jesus shines. And there are indeed people of other faiths; and, yes, people of no explicit or specific faith, who for all our differences seem to be looking in the same direction Jesus is. Don’t worry about them. Don’t worry about any of that. Don’t over-think this!

***Just look at Jesus. Trust him. Follow him. He did not come to bring condemnation and judgment. He came to bring healing and salvation and light.***



**Sunday, April 24 ~ BBQ Lunch following 11am Worship**

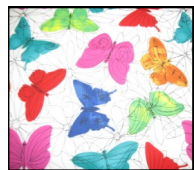
**(BBQ pork, potatoes, slaw, hushpuppies & desserts) \$10 plate**



### ***From the Prayer Team...***

We, as a church, have been praying for many people and situations. Just in the last month, we discovered that the fabric that Pleasant Green United Methodist Women uses for the Common Thread pillow cases and the teddy bears is not available from previous suppliers. [The pillowcases and teddy bears are sharing God's love to persons who are hurting, sick or dying.] We began the search for fabric that would be bright and cheery or any place that might have the material we had been using. We had several sources checking on fabric and were praying for a solution.

Last Tuesday, I called Matt on my way home from church to ask if he wanted me to get us something for supper. Instead, he wanted to go out to eat. By the time I got home and we headed off to the restaurant, we saw that the neighbors were just getting home from work. We stopped to see if they were interested in going with us. They wanted to go but were waiting for someone. We said that was no problem we'll wait. The men went out to the garage to look at something and I sat down at the dining table to wait. I noticed a stack of magazines and catalogs and asked if I could look at those while we waited. The neighbor said that I could - it was a stack of materials she had not a chance to look through yet.



One of the items was a catalog for fabric. I started going through it and looking for possible replacement fabrics for the ministry. On page 6, there was the butterfly print fabric that the Common Thread ministry had been using. After several texts to Gloria, I placed an order for 24 yards of the fabric. The fabric arrived a week later and we're looking into ordering more and determining how large their supply is.

I looked for the definition of serendipity: 1. An unsought, unintended, and/or unexpected, but fortunate, discovery and/or learning experience that happens by accident; or 2. A combination of events which are not individually beneficial, but occurring together to produce a good or wonderful outcome. While this event certainly fits the definition of serendipity, I think we far too often see things just as fortunate or good luck. Sometimes we need to step back and see God at work in our lives. We need to see his nudges to do things his way or watch for how he answers our prayers.

The prayer letters, lined up on the table in the hallway outside the office, are a good way to remind persons or families that we are praying for them. Sometimes they come at a time when that the recipient is down or having a bad day and give the recipient an uplift. This could just be "serendipity" or this could be God in action.

*Ceil Matthews*

***Lord, Help us to see your love in our lives and that you are at work through us.  
May we continue to minister to others that they may know you. Amen.***

The next Prayer Team meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. We pray actively for our church activities, church and extended family members, and local, national and global issues. Come join us! In the meantime, check out the Prayer Ministry bulletin board above the prayer letters table in the hallway leading to the Fellowship Hall. Sign the prayer letters under the bulletin board. Signing a letter means you commit to pray for that person at least once during the week. Even though you don't know the person, he or she is so grateful that you care!

***Remember to fill out the yellow prayer cards found in the pews to request prayer for those in need.***



Thank you to all who helped in any way with the  
BBQ Dinner Fundraiser on March 19!  
The food from Hog Heaven was delicious, the music by  
The Thursday Night Band was awesome and the  
company was the BEST!

Love to all,  
Bryson and Maya



# pleasant green youth group



## April Youth Calendar

**Friends, Fellowship, Games and Lessons / Sunday School 10 am**

Contact Ali DeLeo for more information: 202-744-6440 or [alideleo@gmail.com](mailto:alideleo@gmail.com)

## Youth News & Upcoming Events

**ELEVATE ~ Sundays 5:00–7:30pm ~ April 17 & 24 (at 4:30)**

To sign up for dinner, please let Ali know or go to the doodle poll at <http://doodle.com/poll/ssknxhec9ifqri49>

**Friday, April 8 - Sunday, April 10 ~ Youth Retreat to Charlotte:** leaving on Friday at 6pm, spend Saturday at Carowinds, worship Sunday at Myers Park UMC and return around 4pm.

Our retreat focus is "Revelations from Youth Running the Course of Life" and Revelation 7:12 "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

**Sunday, April 24 ~ PG Event with Hillsborough UMC Youth** ~ includes football, volleyball, other games and activities, joint devotional time, BBQ goodness, fire pit, and dessert.

## BINGO for a CURE



April 23  
6:00

Pleasant Green UMC

PRIZES



Food & Drinks

Family Fun

Entertainment

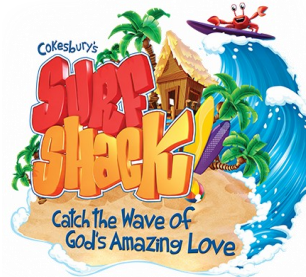
Come out and support the Youth Group's Relay for Life team. With prizes from local businesses, food, desserts, and drinks. All proceeds going to the American Cancer Society!

**Orange County's Relay for Life is May 5th starting at 5:00pm with vendors, entertainment (Frankie Faucet & The Drips, and the Mason Lovette Band), fun all supporting the American Cancer Society.**

## Mark Your Calendar for Summer Fun!

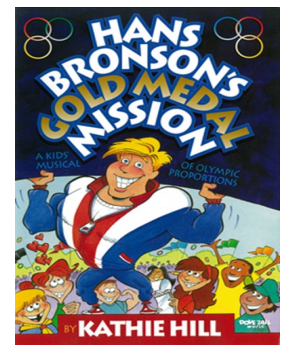
### PGUMC Summer Camp

June 20 - July 29



### Vacation Bible School

June 20-24



### Musical Week

July 18-22



### PGUMC

**Kids Own Worship  
Volunteers Needed!**

If you are available to help please contact:  
[andrea.harris68@yahoo.com](mailto:andrea.harris68@yahoo.com) or  
[Michelle Baker - mbaker1778@gmail.com](mailto:mbaker1778@gmail.com)

Support our youth in the **American Cancer Society Relay For Life** ~ May 5 - 6

To donate ~ [main.acsevents.org/goto/pgumc](http://main.acsevents.org/goto/pgumc)





### *Congratulations Jackson!*

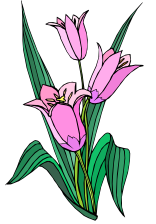
**Jackson Berini was inducted into Tom Carr's GRIT Hall of Fame at the 9th Annual Ceremony at PGUMC on February 23.**



**Jackson is the son of Joe & Kim Berini and is a member of our 2016 Confirmation Class.**

**Also congratulations to inductee Evynne Franklin, a senior at CRHS & former After-schooler/ Summer Camper/ Musical helper.**

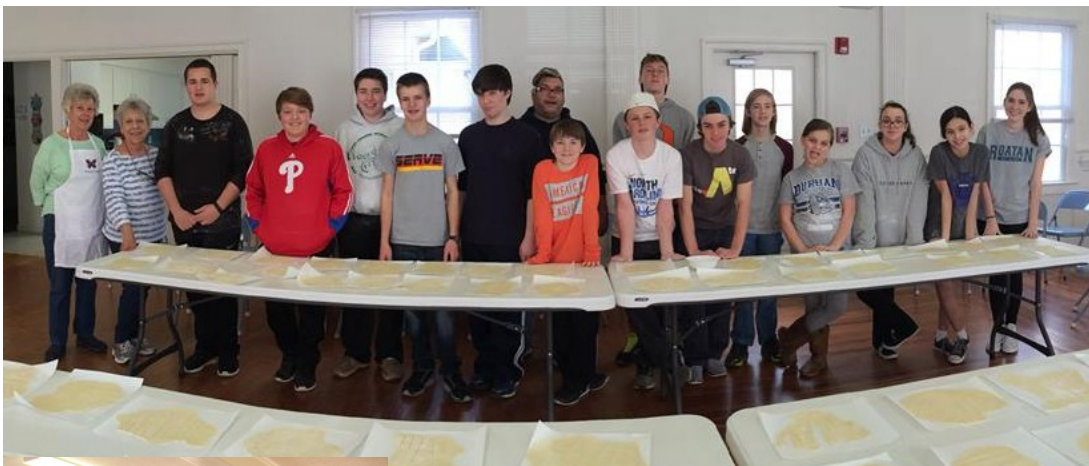
***Do YOU have flowers growing in your yard to share? Please call the church office if you have (or will have) flowers to provide for a Sunday, arranged by you or others.***



### **30 Hour Famine**

*PG Youth, going hungry themselves for 30 hours and also participating in the service project, rolling dough for the UMW Chicken Dumplings. Our youth stood in solidarity with the more than 26,000 children around the world who die from hunger and preventable diseases each day.*

**\$3500 was raised for World Vision's 30 Hour Famine.**







Thanks  
to all  
who  
helped  
with  
the  
UMW  
Dinner  
to fund  
missions!





## Pleasant Green UMC Job Opening: Church Secretary

The principle function of this job is to assist the church in carrying out its mission by planning and implementing effective organizational and fiscal processes to achieve its goals. Skill sets include general administrative office procedures, computer literacy, organizational skills, interpersonal relations, oral, written and electronic communications skills and the ability to maintain a high level of confidentiality. This position reports directly to the senior pastor.

This is a part time position, 20 hour per week. Anyone interested please contact the church office (919) 383-2339. You may also contact Van McCay at vmccay@nc.rr.com or Pastor Jesse Brunson at drjbrunson@aol.com.



### Fanny Breeze Gravestone Engraved with Dates

“Aunt” Fannie Breeze, a former slave always sat in the back of the women’s side of the sanctuary. This good woman was converted and joined this church prior to the war between the States, and remained a faithful and devoted member until she joined the family of God in the heavens.

Rev. J.B. Thompson (Preacher in Charge 1901-1904) used to say that when ministering to the congregation here in the Word of Truth he could always find inspiration by looking into “Aunt” Fannie’s black face, radiant with the joy of the Lord.

After much research, it has been determined that Fannie Breeze was born in 1832, the same year that Pleasant Green Methodist Church was established and died in 1912. “Aunt” Fannie and her husband, “Uncle” Stanford, and daughter, Harriet are all buried in the PG Cemetery.

To the present membership of Pleasant Green Church permit me to say that you have a goodly heritage; you are surrounded with a cloud of faithful witnesses; therefore, it behooves you with renewed vigor to press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, and some day while you serve, and wait, and look upward, the King will come and you will go in with Him to the marriage feast.

*\*from the 1953 Pleasant Green Methodist Episcopal Church History by Alan Browning*



### The Hearts & Hands Class

invites all to join them on Sunday, April 10, as they volunteer at the Murdoch Developmental Center in Butner. The group will be leaving the church at 8:30 to transport the residents to Worship.

Contact Van McCay with questions: 919-477-9692.



### Mission Dresses

Lisa McCurdy’s aunt, a member of a UMW group from Chapel Hill came to Pleasant Green on February 27th to teach us how to turn simple t-shirts into dresses to share on mission trips. The first follow-up session is planned for **Saturday morning, April 16 at 9:30.** We will set up an assembly line, so volunteers can complete one task to help generate many dresses.

***Can't sew? Helping hands of all abilities are welcome!***

**No other material donations are needed at this time.**

*from Project Bountiful.....*

What does following Jesus, reaching out to the community, hospitality, and mission work have to do with Project Bountiful? These words and phrases are all part of the purpose of PB. In our last Home Team meeting, we talked about how “Project Bountiful” really doesn’t tell us very much about what is expected. PB by itself doesn’t give us direction. That is where the other words, like following Jesus and mission work come in. In fact, they are so important that we have incorporated them into the values of Pleasant Green UMC!

In the January *Roots and Branches*, these were the values and beliefs of Pleasant Green that were shared. This review is a reminder. We believe in:

- Christ as the center of all that we do.
- The study of God’s Word.
- The Bible as essential to our faith.
- Mission as our local and global commitment.
- Hospitality as our welcoming of all of God’s children.
- Our stewardship of God’s creation.

In our own hearts and in church worship, classes and committees, let’s keep these values in focus as we minister to each other and the community.

*Our next Coaching meeting is April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm and is open to anyone who is interested.*

### **El Salvador Mission Trip August 6—13, 2016**



The final date to sign up to participate in the 2016 El Salvador Mission Trip is May 1st. Please contact Kathryn Dempsey if you are interested in going.

Plans for this year’s trip:

- do as in the past - construction, food delivery and Bible school.
- funding is needed for construction
  - ~ Home Building Project \$5300
  - ~ Church Construction \$4000 (includes materials and local professional labor)
  - ~ Food Distribution \$1000

A child in school could also be sponsored, at the cost of \$400 a year.

**Please support the Mission Trip fundraisers:  
Change for Christ  
BBQ Lunch on Sunday, April 24**

### **April 25—World Malaria Day**



So, what exactly are we fighting? Malaria is caused by a parasite, which is transmitted through the bite of mosquitoes. This deadly pest flies and feeds at night (which is why bed nets are an effective prevention tool).

**IMAGINE NO MALARIA** is an effort of the people of The United Methodist Church . Please give—  
Advance Special # 3021190

### **Kids Connect**

**visited the Brookdale Assisted Living  
Center on Saturday, March 12  
with 13 kids & 4 adults!**







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

**Website:** [PleasantGreenUMC.org](http://PleasantGreenUMC.org)

**Pastor - Rev. Dr. Jesse Brunson (919) 383-2339**

**Director of Spiritual Formation and Youth Ministry -**

**Alison DeLeo: [alideleo@gmail.com](mailto:alideleo@gmail.com)**

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## **BRUNSWICK STEW**

still available at \$9 per quart

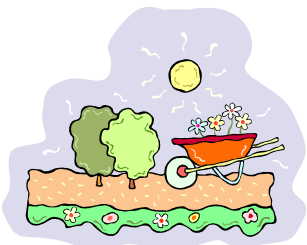
*Call the church office.*

### **Multiflora**

### **2nd Annual Spring Open House**

**April 2nd ~ 10am - 3 pm**

Featuring live music, food & refreshments, raffle prizes, free giveaways, greenhouse tours, on-site education, fresh plants, and Orange County Master Gardener Program.



## **PINE STRAW SALE**

**\$6.00 per bale**

**Pine Straw available for pick-up at church  
or delivery on Saturday, April 2.**

*Order forms are available at church or call 919-383-5764.*



## **Change for Christ**

Take a bottle to collect your spare change for the next several months.

Return the bottle to us when it gets full.  
Your spare change can make a BIG difference!

**2015 I ♥ EL SALVADOR**  
**Pleasant Green**  
United Methodist Church

*The El Salvador Mission Team  
appreciates your generosity!*

**Sunday, April 24 ~ BBQ Lunch ~ \$10**

**(BBQ pork, potatoes, slaw, hushpuppies & desserts)**

**Eat-in lunch following the 11:00 Worship Service**

**For more information contact:**

**Jim Perry: [jperryiii@frontier.com](mailto:jperryiii@frontier.com)**

**Kathryn Dempsey:**

**[katjoyforall@gmail.com](mailto:katjoyforall@gmail.com)**

