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# ROOTS & BRANCHES

FEBRUARY 2021

*PleasantGreenUMC.org*

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*Thank you Pastor Laura for our virtual sermons and Church offerings! They continue to nourish our spirits and help us feel connected during this time when we can't be together in-person.*

*~Your PG Congregation*

# The Winter Season

If you are anything like me, once I've made it through the holiday season in December and a cold, gray January, I'm already starting to lean in and look forward to spring. Except, the thing is – it's only the first of February. It's still winter. And we have a ways to go. I asked a pastor friend in mid-January what he was focusing on in this new year and where he was putting his energies. Sometimes, I have to catch myself. I'm always looking into the future wondering how we can plan and prepare. But he gave me some wisdom that day. He reminded me that it is the season of winter. This is a time when stuff doesn't bloom and blossom above ground. But underneath the ground, there is plenty of life. Seeds and nuts are buried beneath the surface and even the physical land itself rests from thriving. This is not a time when nothing happens. But it is a different kind of nurturing.

Katherine May wrote a book about this. She speaks about wintering as a season of the natural world, a respite our bodies require, and a state of mind. After listening to an interview with her, I started thinking about how this pandemic time has been, in some ways, one big communal experience of wintering. That's not to say people are sleeping the days away – not at all. Some are laboring harder than ever on the front lines and exhausted from laboring harder than ever in the home. Everyone is feeling an exhaustion of some sort.

I never understood the athletes that could sit in an ice bath, but I must say, May has shifted my gaze toward how I think of winter – not just as a cold, drab season, but as a state of the soul. A state of mind. She writes, "the cold has healing powers...After all, you apply ice to a joint after an awkward fall. Why not do the same to a life?"

How are you greeting and embracing this time? Is there something you are nurturing or fostering, even if it is not yet blooming and thriving above the ground? Soul tending is holy and worthy work in our lives. Even as we move through February, into Lent, and continue to winter together through a pandemic, I pray that we may find acceptance and grace on the

journey. I will remind us all that wintering, that soul tending, resting, and nurturing yourself or another person is a radical and courageous act.

Finally, I'll share 4 ways I have been wintering these couple months:

1. Continuing to keep our community connected with an online and digital presence – Maintaining consistency with online worship and various other weekly offerings. 2020 felt like a steep learning curve. I'm grateful to be in a place of sustaining something for a brief time and letting it be.
2. On a personal level, I set a goal to do a 16-mile trail run the first weekend in February. This was a way to keep me disciplined to get outside and moving through the cold months. Sometimes, discipline beats motivation, and I'm hanging on to that these days!
3. Deepening a skill and learning something new to help me be a better pastor and a better human. Mid-January I began a course with the University of Vermont to obtain a certificate in being an "End-of-Life-Doula." The term "doula" is a Greek word meaning "servant" and is usually used to speak of the role of women assisting the process of giving birth. This course focuses on accompanying people at the end of their life and throughout the dying process. It has been deeply moving, challenging, and emotional. But I am grateful to spend time reflecting, learning, and cultivating my own care-giving skills.
4. Looking ahead to Lent, which leads me to some information I'd like to share about what to expect and look for in the coming weeks at Pleasant Green.... (continued on pages 3 & 4)

Pastor Laura



## PGUMC Directory Updates

Please send any changes or additions from the 2018 directory to [pgumc@ncrrbiz.com](mailto:pgumc@ncrrbiz.com).

## Financial Update

2021 Unified Budget	<b>327,037.42</b>
YTD Total Income to Operating Fund	<b>14,605.57</b>
YTD Operating Expenses	<b>19,466.00</b>
YTD Operating Fund Balance	<b>-4,860.43</b>
2020 Operating Fund Balance Forward	<b>18,065.45</b>
2021 Current Actual Operating Fund Balance	<b>13,205.02</b>
Current Building Mortgage Balance	<b>237,533.57</b>



Handmade & donated by Diane Wingo

## THANK YOU

Dear Pleasant Green United Methodist family, I cannot begin to tell you how blown away I was by your community's immense generosity and outpours of love to our families in need during this holiday season! I am beyond grateful and feel incredibly blessed to have your support, and to be able to extend your blessings to so many families in need. Thank you for being such a bright light in what is otherwise a dark time for many families.

Best,  
Bekah Rea & Cameron Park Elementary School

Dear Pleasant Green United Methodist Church, We are deeply grateful for the support of Pleasant Green United Methodist Church. With your generous donation to Compass Center for Women and Families on December 31, 2020, we can continue our efforts in providing invaluable resources to our community.

From resources like career and financial education, domestic violence crisis and prevention programs, legal assistance, and youth health programs, Compass Center strives to help all people navigate their journey to self-sufficiency, safety, and health. Without your generosity, we could not impact as many families and individuals as we have in the past years.

With this new year, we will continue to grow our reach with the selfless help of you and others. We are very privileged and grateful to know you support our role in Orange County, NC and beyond. We will keep you updated through our newsletters on the exciting progress being made!

With deep gratitude,  
Compass Center for Women and Families

Dear Pleasant Green UMC, Thank you for your generous support with our winter holiday market at Families Moving Forward. Thanks to you over 30 kids received toys, a stocking and gift wrap. This simply would not have been possible without you!

Thank you,  
Caylin Luebeck on behalf of all 2020 Aftercare Families

## \*\*Information for those in need of Caregivers



At Ease Home Health Care is a veteran-owned health care service providing 24 hr a day, 7 day a week home care. Services include but are not limited to: Dr. Visits, meal preparation, light housekeeping, grooming, & hygiene. More information on the Church bulletin board.

Carol Knight  
910-651-5297  
cknight766@gmail.com  
6049 Cornfield Ave.  
Fayetteville, NC 28314

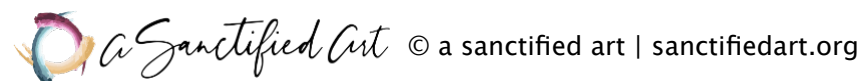


### Join us this Lent

In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats—every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation we exclaim, “Again?! How long, O God?” And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: “I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair.” Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.

This theme provides a clear invitation in a time when much is unclear. Even if worshipping apart, we come to God again and again with our prayers, our dreams, our hopes, and our doubts. Even if from a distance, we will continue to be community to one another—especially when it's hard—by choosing each other over and over again. We will continue to love God with the same persistence God chooses and claims us. Our subtitle, *A Lenten Refrain*, speaks to the ways God can make music of our lives. “Refrain” also reminds us that Lent is a season of abstaining from certain practices in order to take on new rhythms and habits.

In this season, we need rituals—both old and new—to remember and be transformed. Embodied practice builds muscle memory. Repetition helps retrain our neural pathways. We need the 46 days of Lent because this season shapes us into more faithful disciples. Join us this Lent as again and again, we bring all of who we are to God and trust that God will meet us, time and again, along the way.



## How we will Journey through this time together:

### Ash Wednesday Apart-Together

Unfortunately, we will not be gathering in-person for Ash Wednesday. We will provide a short online liturgy and meditation that can be viewed at home at any time. However, we also recognize that it is easier to engage these practices in community. And so, we will also have a communal time to watch together using the same platform we use each Sunday (online church) so that we can share in this liturgy together-apart. The times to watch together will be at 8am and 7pm. Ash Wednesday is very much an “embodied” day – in other words, the significance of this day is touching skin to skin, feeling and seeing the mark of the cross on the forehead. This is a day that engages the senses. It won't be the same online, but you may find it to be *more* meaningful this year by choosing to light a candle, grab a little dirt from the ground in your yard and put in a small bowl, and have a pen and paper ready to jot down a note or two. The link will be sent out in Pastor Laura's Saturday email the week before and the morning of.

### Worship Online each Sunday @ 10:30am

Pleasant Green UMC will continue to worship as a community throughout this season each Sunday at 10:30am using this theme “Again and Again.” Here's a look at the scriptures we'll be using each Sunday:

**The First Sunday of Lent:**  
**Again & Again, God Meets Us**  
*Genesis 9:8-17, Mark 1:9-15*

**The Second Sunday of Lent:**  
**Again & Again, We are Called to Listen**  
*Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Mark 8:31-38*

**The Third Sunday of Lent:**  
**Again & Again, We are Shown the Way**  
*Exodus 20: 1-17, John 2:13-22*

**The Fourth Sunday of Lent:**  
**Again & Again, God Loves First**  
*Numbers 21:4-9, John 3:14-21*

**The Fifth Sunday of Lent:**  
**Again & Again, We are Reformed**  
*Jeremiah 31:31-34, John 12:20-33*

**Palm/Passion Sunday, Holy Week & Easter Sunday**  
*More details to come!*

### Lent in a Bag: a take-home resource

Much like the “Advent At-Home” Kits we provided in December, we will also have quite a few goodies and resources to help you journey through this time with intention and presence. These “Lent in a Bag” bags can be picked up in the Fellowship Hall anytime starting Friday, February 12 – Wednesday, February 17 (Ash Wednesday). Based on the response to the Advent bags, we will have about 25 bags prepared – please take one per family. No need to sign up, they are there for you to pick up at your convenience.

#### What's in the bag:

~An Adult Friendly Advent Devotional that will follow our theme “Again & Again”

~Daily Devotional Cards – These simple cards are great for middle & high school youth, college students, and adults of all ages. Each card has a one-word “prompt,” a verse of scripture, and a prayer for each day. We hope this will help you cultivate a rhythm of daily prayer each day.

~A kid-friendly Daily Lenten “Calendar” with practices, prayers, and scriptures each day tailored toward younger audiences.

~Several items (a candle, a piece of burlap, etc.) to help you and your family “embody” and give some of these words and prayers shape and meaning.

~Coloring pages for children and adults of all ages.

### \*Additional Lenten Studies available in the Parlor

### Holy Week Stations of the Cross

A walking meditation to do at your own leisure during Holy Week on the grounds at Pleasant Green! More details to come.

**May this season through the wilderness of Lent shape us into the people of God so that we may live as Easter people all the days of our lives!**

# February

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1</b> Sandy Quinn	<b>2</b> Adam Bell Charlotte Whitfield Chloe Whitfield	<b>3</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 10:30am Joey Berini Chris Martin Patricia Robinson	<b>4</b> <b>Read &amp; Seed Patch</b> 6:30pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Congratulations! John DuLaney turns 75! Bobby Parrish Jeremy Whitford
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>FOOD FOR ALL</b> Abby D Schoenfeld Larry Flannery Charles Weaver	<b>10</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 10:30am Piper Baker	<b>11</b> Collin Johnson Nancy Tilley	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Becky Link Tim Fowler Nancy Dixon Wendy Anderson
<b>14</b> <b>Transfiguration Sunday</b> <b>Valentine's Day</b> Susan Bell Kathryn Dempsey	<b>15</b> Dennis Nicholson David LaBarre Emma Linthicum	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 10:30am	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Elizabeth W Dehmer Will Witt	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> Dwayne Marlowe Dennis Nichols Scott Walker	<b>22</b> Hudson Link Elizabeth Link Jacks Josephine McCarter Marie Meier	<b>23</b> <b>Blood Drive</b> 10am-3pm	<b>24</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 10:30am <b>Prayer Ministry</b> 6:30pm Peter Gilbane	<b>25</b> Ella Fisher Dean Overaker	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> T. C. Adams
<b>28</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b> Erin Bracey Julie Poe						



### **Read & Seed Patch 2/4**

Reading the nonfiction book *The Book of Joy* by 14th Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu and Douglas Adams. All are welcome to join! Contact: Cindy - pmfcjs@aol.com  
Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2512512973?pwd=MUN5VzhoMTloczBEVnFZanQzemRuZz09>  
Meeting ID: 251 251 2973 / Passcode: 123456

### **Blood Drive 2/23**

PG Fellowship Hall, 10am-3pm  
To donate or volunteer, contact the Church office at [pgumc@ncrrbiz.com](mailto:pgumc@ncrrbiz.com)/919-383-5764  
Or go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) (sponsor code: Pleasant Green)

### **Prayer Ministry 2/24**

Contact Gail at [pruettg4mh@gmail.com](mailto:pruettg4mh@gmail.com) for more information, meeting ID and passcode. All are welcome to join!

### **Wednesday Bible Study**

Reading *Practicing Changing Yourself To Change The World* by Kathy Escobar



## ***A More Profound Kind of Love- Too Good to Keep Quiet About!***

He replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself."

Matthew 22: 37-39

February is filled with daily, weekly, and monthly holidays and observances; in fact, dozens of them! Who knew? (<https://www.thespruce.com/special-days-and-observances-in-february-1448885>) But, there are a few that we keep closer to our hearts and minds each year: Valentine's Day, American Heart Month, and Black History Month. Yet, even for these events, we may give cursory attention to their significance, falling into commercialization and come-and-go attitudes as we celebrate them. What if we paid attention to the people and events around us with a more profound kind of love, using Matthew 22: 37-39 as a foundation? If we love the Lord our God with all of our hearts, beings, and minds, doesn't that mean loving those around us with the same depth and devotion?

For example, if you were blessed by picking up the advent devotional book *Those Who Dream* from the church during Advent, you would see that love is a strong theme. The love of God our Father and of Jesus Christ lives on all year, beyond Advent. On page 39, artist and author Hannah Garrity had drawn a picture of a little black baby Jesus, named Love Incarnate. In her description of this painting, Hannah wrote, "What are my hopes for the life of God incarnate, in his Black body, in this moment? ...That he will enjoy his moments, find purpose, live into deep love, share great kindness....that those who

meet him will see the love he holds, will see the joy he lives, will see the kindness he is shown." In the same book, on the last page, poet Sarah Are writes in her poem, *All in All*, "It takes strength to dream; I imagine it's that same strength that leads people to say, 'I love you' first, those three vulnerable words-wrapped in heart strings, whispered, because what could be is too good to keep quiet about."<sup>1</sup>

Receiving God's profound love, profoundly loving Him back, and living our lives by profoundly loving all others is a way to change the world, filling it with love and peace. That is too good to keep quiet about!

Let us pray the first verse of the hymn, written by Elizabeth Prentiss, written in 1856, *More Love to Thee, O Christ*; keeping in mind that by drawing nearer to God in love, we need to draw nearer to all of our neighbors in love as well.

***More love to Thee, O Christ,  
More love to Thee!  
Hear Thou the prayer I make  
On bended knee;  
This is my earnest plea:  
More love, O Christ, to Thee,  
More love to Thee,  
More love to Thee!***<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Garrity, Rev. L.G.; Pittman, Rev. L.W.; Are, Rev. S.; Riggs, M. (2020). Sanctified Art: <https://sanctifiedart.org/those-who-dream-advent-bundle-year-b>

<sup>2</sup> Prentiss, E. (1856). More Love to Thee, O Christ. <https://hymnary.org/text/more-love-to-thee-o-christ>

*\*USUALLY, the Prayer Ministry meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm. However, in February, since the 3rd Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the Prayer Ministry will meet the 4th Wednesday, February 24th at 6:30 pm. Contact Gail at [pruettg4mh@gmail.com](mailto:pruettg4mh@gmail.com) for more information and for the meeting ID/access code. Please join us! We always feel greater love for God, Jesus Christ, and mankind at the end of the prayer meeting.*

# THE NC REAL ID

I am sharing this information with everyone because of the difficulty some of my friends and I have had in getting a Real ID. Why wait until the last minute? If a Real ID or specific identification is needed in the future for voting, it may be better to prepare now.

Good luck with the process! Let me know if I can help. – Gail Pruett ([pruettg4mh@gmail.com](mailto:pruettg4mh@gmail.com))

### ***What is a Real ID?***

The NC REAL ID is a REAL ID Act-compliant driver license that is just like a traditional license or ID but has a star at the top. Driver licenses and IDs without a gold star are noted "Not for Federal Identification". It is a way to verify your identity through a thorough verification process.

### ***Do I need a Real ID?***

According to the NC Department of Transportation website, a Real ID is optional if you know you will not have to fly on a plane or visit a secure federal building. The following activities do NOT require a Real ID:

- Driving (a regular driver's license will do)
- Voting (a judge said a photo ID was not required in 2020; but the need for a Real ID for voting is unclear going forward).
- Applying for or receiving federal benefits (e.g., Veterans Affairs, Social Security Admin., etc.)
- Entering a federal facility that does not require an ID (e.g., a post office)
- Access to a hospital or receiving lifesaving services
- Participation in law enforcement proceedings or investigations (e.g., serve on a federal jury, testify in federal court, etc.)

### ***When will it be used?***

Beginning Oct. 1, 2021, federal agencies will enforce the REAL ID Act, which requires a REAL ID, U.S. Passport, or another federally approved identification to board commercial flights and enter secure federal buildings, such as nuclear sites, military bases, and federal courthouses and prisons.

REAL ID Website and Document list:

<https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/license-id/nc-real-id/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/license-id/nc-real-id/Pages/requirements.aspx>

### ***How do I get a Real ID?***

- Make an appointment at a local DMV. Ask for a REAL ID appointment.
- Have your paperwork in order, see required vdocument list at NCDOT website.
- Take all documents with you.
- Be prepared to have your picture taken.

### ***NOTES:***

Original documents (no copies) are needed, such as a birth certificate, marriage certificate for women or anyone changing their name, Social Security card, and proof of address. Make sure your name matches on all of the documents.

The staff at DMV offices are very meticulous about making sure the documents are in order. One of my friends cannot get a Real ID because she does not have proof of her current address. She uses a PO Box for all mail and bill paying. A PO Box is not a real address. It took me 3 visits on 3 separate days to finally get a Real ID because I did not have everything exactly right.

It takes about 4 to 6 weeks to get an appointment during these COVID times.

# 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

**Pleasant Green United Methodist Church**  
3005 Pleasant Green Road  
Durham 27705

**Saturdays:**  
**April 10th 9am-11am**  
**April 17th 1pm-3pm**  
**April 24th 9am-11am**

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

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

## Support UMCOR's Coffee & Chocolate Project!



### Coffee bags \$8

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

### Organic Chocolate bars \$2.50

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

**For sale in the Parlor!**

*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.*

GIVE  
DONATE  
HELP  
SHARE  
VOLUNTEER  
PRAY



## Congratulations on 40 years! ~ 1981

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](http://www.ocimnc.org).



## Families Moving Forward

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

Helping build strength, stability & self reliance. Seeking to put God's love into action, 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](mailto:perryjames@twc.com).



## 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.



# Pleasant Green

*United Methodist Church*

**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**

Tuesday, February 23, 10am-3pm in the Fellowship Hall. To sign up, contact the Church office at pgumc@ncrrbiz.com / 919-383-5764 or go to redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: Pleasant Green)



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**

