

ROOTS & BRANCHES

MARCH 2021

PleasantGreenUMC.org



It was a dark and gray morning, like most we have experienced throughout January and February. But this particular morning, a hot cup of coffee and the company of another person (in-person! – with a mask, of course) was a welcomed opportunity. I have never really engaged the field of spiritual direction in an official capacity. For those to whom this is unfamiliar, there are professional, trained spiritual directors out there – much like there are counselors, doctors, nurses, teachers and pastors. Spiritual Direction is simply the practice of being with people as they attempt to deepen their relationship with the Divine or learn and grow in their spirituality. In that sense, we probably ought to all be spiritual directors for one another. It sounds like a really simple thing – but, if you ask people how God is moving and stirring in their lives, it is a question people wrestle with deeply. So, thanks be to God for Spiritual Directors and others who can help us see and hear and know God’s presence in our lives and world.

On this particular morning, the spiritual director and I were trying to get out of the world of our heads. We craft our big ideas into books filled with words. We have such lofty concepts of God and theology – and yet Jesus usually talked about the Kingdom of God with really ordinary things, things like coins, dirt and seeds, vines, bread. The practice was simple. She had a stack of notecards. And instead of reading a devotion, or crafting words into a spoken prayer, we both picked a random postcard out of the stack and sat together for 10 minutes of silence. Meditating on the image. Considering that simple question, how is God at work in my life? Is God stirring anything in my heart in this image?

At first she told me that – we are just going to draw at random and trust that the particular image is intended for us this day, but, feel free to grab a second one if I did not feel connected to the first

postcard. I picked a card from the stack – took one glance and decided it was a good image for me to ponder in the next few minutes.

The postcard was simply a cluster of flowers – one blooming, the others budding and about to bloom. My first reaction to it, because I am so longing for spring to arrive in creation, was yes!—life is on the way. The possibility of new life emerging is upon us. But the longer I sat in silence and stared at a simple flower, the more my verbs changed. Life is not on the way. Life is here. Now. And perhaps Jesus spent this season, the season we call Lent, in the wilderness because we have a lot to learn from ordinary things like flowers, trees, and dirt. Even in winter, even in the wilderness, we don’t just have the promise of new life, we get life. In the present. Here. Now. Among us. Within us.

How is God stirring up something within me these days? I am learning that no matter what is happening all around – be it joy, suffering, adventure, or isolation; No matter what the evening news reports or what the politicians decide, or what the weekly to-do list holds, that I have within me (and you have within you) life. The ability to live and thrive. Regardless of what happens in the world around it, when spring arrives, the flower blooms. The beauty of the flower exists in its being a flower. Blooming where it is planted.

In this month, when we are all eager to get outside, to clear out the flower beds, to move the plants back outdoors, to welcome a new season on the horizon, may we do more than anticipate the life that is to come. Let us also embrace the life that is with us and within us now. On the foggy days, in the lonely wilderness, when the weight of the world feels overbearing. For God is with us. The Spirit is as close to us as our very breath. Whatever chaos churns around us, there can be peace within us. May we live well. Here. Now. And all the days of our lives.

Shalom,
Pastor Laura



PGUMC online Directory coming soon!

This will be posted in place of our current Mobile Directory on our website as we are not able to update. We’ll have a new plan for family pictures this fall! If you have not already, please send any changes or additions from the 2018 directory to pgumc@ncrrbiz.com.

Financial Update

<i>2021 Unified Budget</i>	327,037.42
<i>YTD Total Income to Operating Fund</i>	34,665.13
<i>YTD Operating Expenses</i>	40,227.33
<i>YTD Operating Fund Balance</i>	-5,562.20
<i>2020 Operating Fund Balance Forward</i>	18,065.45
<i>2021 Current Actual Operating Fund Balance</i>	12,503.25
<i>Current Building Mortgage Balance</i>	234,402.05

THANK YOU

Dear Pleasant Green Church family, Thank you for all of the cards, phone calls, balloons, and edible treats I received on the occasion of my 75th birthday. I was truly overwhelmed with your expressions of love and well wishes.

John DuLaney

Dear Pleasant Green UM Church, Thank you so much for remembering our Mom, Peggy Wilson, during the time she was home and in the nursing home. The cards and visits were very much appreciated. We hope we can gather together to celebrate her lift with family and friends in the near future.

*Sincerely,
Peggy Wilson Family*

Thanks to those who donated and volunteered for the February blood drive!



Congratulations to Dave Cook on receiving The Order of Long Leaf Pine Award!

Dave G. Cook, retiring Education & Outreach Coordinator for the Eno River Association received this award by North Carolina State Senator Mike Woodard. Since 1963, North Carolina’s governors have reserved their highest honor, The Order of the Long Leaf Pine award, for persons who have made significant contributions to the state and their communities through their exemplary service and exceptional accomplishments.

Dave Cook is a seasoned North Carolina State Park Ranger, Superintendent, and District Superintendent. He has served at the Eno River Association since 2016, and intends to continue volunteering after his retirement in January 2021.



CONTINUING TO JOURNEY THROUGH LENT TOGETHER

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 & Again.” Here’s a look at the scriptures we’ll be using each Sunday:

The Third Sunday of Lent: March 7
Again & Again, We are Shown the Way
Exodus 20: 1-17, John 2:13-22

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

The Fifth Sunday of Lent: March 21
Again & Again, We are Reformed
Jeremiah 31:31-34, John 12:20-33

Palm/Passion Sunday: March 28

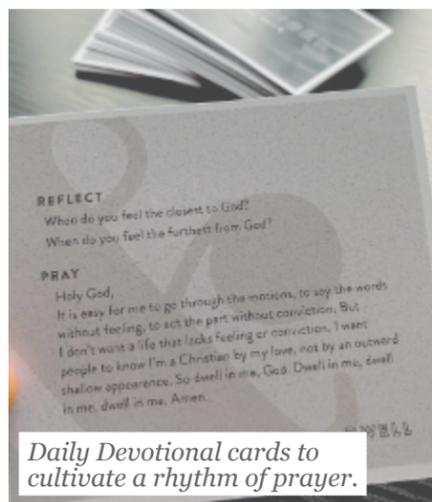
Holy Week & Easter Sunday: April 4
More details to come!

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!

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



Daily Devotional cards to cultivate a rhythm of prayer.



Eno River Association publishes first Eno Journal in 20 years!

The Association provides platform for People of Color to share their Eno family history.

The Eno River Association announces the revival of their Eno Journal, now available for purchase online and thru local retail shops. *Ribbons of Color Along the Eno River: The History of African Americans and People of Color Living on the Eno* contains first- and second-hand stories of those who have long lived in the Eno watershed.

This Eno Journal is the culmination of a two decades-long effort by the Association to discover, research, recruit writers, and publish this collection. “We are grateful to the descendants, record keepers, and historians in the Eno River community who preserved these memories and photographs” says Dave Cook, former Eno staffer and veteran volunteer on the project.

Music, War, Baptism, Indigenous Beadwork, and local historical figure Fannie Breeze (buried at PGUMC) are just a few of the themes of the stories included in *Ribbons of Color*. The journal’s articles are gathered from interviews, first-person narratives, and family lore of a dozen authors ranging from members of the Saponi Nation, historians, and others including notably Charlene Whitted Campbell, Alexandra Sutton Lawrence, Kris Mayfield, Dr. Freddie Parker, and Beverly Scarlett.

“In honor of Black History Month, the Association humbly uplifts these 17 stories from within our watershed history, some previously untold. Many of these voices are from marginalized groups or those overlooked by historical records which are predominantly recorded based on whiteness and wealth” reports Eno Executive Director Jessica Sheffield.

“To truly live our mission, we must work to overcome the injustices that have been wrought on Eno’s Black and Indigenous communities. Too often conservation work overlooks the needs of communities of color, and creates unequal access to nature. The publication of *Ribbons of Color* and its subsequent volumes is one step in the direction of righting this wrong. We hope the Eno Journal platform will be used for years to come, for countless more family histories to be shared” states Sheffield.

Copies of the Journal can be ordered at enoriver.org. The Association is actively seeking submissions for the next volume of *Ribbons of Color*. Please contact education@enoriver.org to learn more.

From Amanishuck (The Hilly Land, The Piedmont) by Alexandra Sutton Lawrence

“The Eno River, like all rivers, has a voice. In this land, it spoke to me – telling the stories of my ancestors. Over time, I started to go barefoot. I hadn’t realized it yet, but this was the land claiming me back, even as I slowly began to rediscover pieces of myself inside of it.”

“My indigenous ancestors . . . they left markers on the land for me, markers to call me to the right directions, reminders of the glowing thread of connection that binds us to our homelands, our first lands. This is what it means to have a home; it is to be bound, body and soul, to a land and a history that has bound itself to you.”

From an interview with Mary Scarlett Jones

“We had a lot of home remedies that we used. We used to drink sassafras tea, especially at breakfast. Now, that would give you healthy teeth. And there was something else called spicewood. That would grow around the branches. It would make a red tea. It was supposed to be a blood cleanser, make you feel good. And they said that mint tea was good for a whole lot of things. It was good for gas. I remember they would say that if you had a sprained foot, you could get some clay out of the bottom of a spring and bind your foot up with it. They would make a poultice out of it and spread it on your ankle and then wrap it up with a cloth. They would say that if you had a cut and it would bleed right much, you would put soot on it, soot that come from the chimney or stove or something.”

From Ms. Eliza (Didn’t Take No Mess) by Doris Wilson

“She readily found employment as a domestic worker with the Carr family. Mr. Carr owned a supermarket. One day, Eliza asked the Carr family if would be possible for her to work in their store. Before they could answer, she informed them of her opinion. ‘If I am good enough to help raise your children, if I am good enough to clean your house, and if I am good enough to cook for you, I should be good enough to work in the store,’ she exclaimed. They agreed. Eliza was hired to work in the meat department of Carr’s Supermarket.”

March

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday	1	2 <i>Emily Morris Nicholson Amy Walker Moore Abby Nichols</i>	3 Bible Study 10:30am <i>Everett Sollenberger</i>	4 Read & Seed Patch 6:30pm <i>Becky Brogden Ty Walker</i>	5 World Day of Prayer	6 <i>Carly Ann Clark</i>
7 3rd Sunday of Lent <i>Frank Hunter Diane Procise</i>	8 <i>Jackie Beaver Donna Fisher</i>	9 FOOD FOR ALL <i>Susan Adams David Fox Megan Collins King George Ann McCay Pam Weaver</i>	10 Bible Study 10:30am <i>Spencer Micol Megan Carter Brandon Lee</i>	11 <i>Grey Cook</i>	12	13
14 Daylight Savings 4th Sunday of Lent *UMCOR Offering <i>Cynthia Walker Mamie Alley</i>	15	16 <i>Diane Wingo</i>	17 St. Patrick's Day Bible Study 10:30am Prayer Ministry 6:30pm <i>Jacy Chapmon</i>	18	19 <i>Cindy Martin Sonya Braddy</i>	20 <i>Ronnie Brown Heather Walker</i>
21 5th Sunday of Lent <i>Matt Vukmer</i>	22	23 UMW DAY OF GIVING <i>Melody Link Jordan Anderson</i>	24 Bible Study 10:30am <i>Lisa McCurdy Owen Walker Smith</i>	25	26 <i>Jacob Freeman John Link</i>	27 <i>Ali DeLeo</i>
28 Palm/Passion Sunday <i>Wandra Whitford Corbyn Poe</i>	29	30 <i>Currie Bryant Rob Smith</i>	31 Bible Study 10:30am <i>Nancy Browning Susan Carter</i>			

March..

Read & Seed Patch 2/4

Reading *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. Please share any book that you have read lately that you really enjoyed. We love to talk books, books and more books!

Zoom Meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2512512973?pwd=MUN5Vzh0MTloczBEVnFZanQzemRuZz09>
Meeting ID: 251 251 2973 / Passcode: 123456

Prayer Ministry 2/17

Contact Gail at 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

April..

Blood Drive

Wednesday, April 21 (10am-3pm)
Donate or Volunteer!

Wheel Chair Drive

Saturdays: April 10th (9-11am), 17th (1-3pm), 24th (9-11am)





The Prayer Ministry meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 17th at 6:30. Contact Gail at pruettg4mh@gmail.com for more information and for the phone number/access code. Please join us! We always feel greater love for God, Jesus Christ, and mankind at the end of the prayer meeting.

Also, we are looking for someone with Microsoft ACCESS skills to help Matt manage our prayer ministry files. Your contributions would be so helpful! The desire or ability to pray is not necessary. Contact Matt at stagecoach293@gmail.com for more information.





A permanent endowment to support the work of future generations of United Methodist Women.

SAVE THE DATE: March 23rd

Ensure hope for women, children and youth on Day of Giving. Let us honor our formothers by giving to the Legacy Endowment Fund to ensure United Methodist Women can continue serving women, children and youth around the world for the next 150 years. Generous donors have agreed to match gifts received for Day of Giving.

WAYS TO GIVE!

Online at: unitedmethodistwomen.org/150

By Phone: 800-278-7771 (8am-5pm EST, Mon.-Fri.)

Text: 41444 and enter Legacy150 in the message area

By Check: United Methodist Women
Attn: Development Legacy Endowment Fund
475 Riverside Drive, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10115
Write "Day of Giving" in the memo section

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

**GIVE
DONATE
HELP
SHARE
VOLUNTEER
PRAY**



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.

Hello friends and Church partners in Hillsborough!

As an update, Jonathan and Kimberly's house is almost done! See the pictures. Your support and work has put them weeks away from moving in! We were also able to put solar panels on the house through a grant from the Rotary Club and a donation of panels by a local business. I have attached some pictures. I will be in touch soon about the



dedication of the house that you and your congregations will all be invited to soon.



Second, as part of putting the final touches on their house, we have a special landscaping project that we thought you all would love to be a part of. On 2/27 we will be making step stones as part of the landscaping for a path up to their door. There is an opportunity to work outside with concrete and even be creative alongside the family!



We need 5 people to help with this project. Below I have attached our COVID protocols for anyone interested. Here is the link to sign up: <http://vhub.at/faithinhillsborough>

Thanks all! I know this family is thrilled to be almost home. We will have a new house to build in May, so get ready.

*Matt M. Bridges, Development Officer
Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, NC*



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.



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.



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

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)



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**

