



ROOTS & BRANCHES

MAY 2021

PleasantGreenUMC.org

When I was growing up,

throughout grade school, most Tuesday afternoons looked about the same: getting dropped off at church after school was out, heading downstairs to the basement into the music room, getting a Dr. Pepper out of the drink machine that I would split with Marla Ham, the church music director and my piano teacher as a child. I'll confess, I wasn't the best piano student. My mom typically had to make me practice during the week but it's a practice I'm eternally grateful for now as an adult. And Tuesday afternoons in Marla's music room were always lot's of fun.

One particular week I actually had worked really hard on a couple pages of music and I proudly played them during practice. I remember coming to the end of the second page and with great confidence and satisfaction, I struck a chord to signal the end of the piece and proudly felt accomplished at actually having played well those couple pages of music. That's when she said it. That phrase that made my heart sink a little and a feeling of defeat rush through my veins. "Turn the page." Turn the page? Turn the page!!!!??? You mean, there's more? That wasn't the end?? But I worked so hard. I was so proud.

There was more. There was a whole other page on which I had not even laid eyes. Notes waiting to be played. I can't really remember what happened next. I imagine my music teacher made me fumble my way through a new page of music, graciously and lovingly listening to my mistakes. In the music world, musicians call this "sight reading," a term that simply means to play a piece of music that the performer has not learned or seen before (and unless you are an accomplished musician, it usually isn't a well-polished performance).

It seems like this is the way so much of life unfolds. We work so hard after a year of isolation, and even in our weariness we have to figure out how to live with the Coronavirus in new ways. Even after a graduation, the end of a calendar year, or even the loss of a loved one, we find ourselves turning a page in this life, stumbling our way through days we haven't had time to practice for or perfect. Days we have never laid our eyes on, but here they are.

We've been sight reading our way through shared youth ministry with Hillsborough and Union Grove in

the past year – all on Zoom (and I rejoice and give thanks for the faithfulness and leadership Carsten has offered).

We've been sight reading our way through Online Worship with no manual or guidance and no time to practice.

We've been sight reading our way through virtual meetings and Bible studies on Zoom and caring for one another in unique ways (I remember vividly my weekly practice of putting together a weekly "Spiritual Care Package" throughout the last half of 2020.)

Even with a vaccine, it hasn't exactly made life more simple. More optimistic? Yes! But not necessarily more simple. We are now sight reading our way through figuring out how to not just do in-person worship but in-person and online simultaneously. We will soon be sight reading our way through reestablishing children and youth ministry at PG with the help of Keli. Reengaging volunteers.

In many ways, we are fumbling our way through these days that we are living; reengaging in in-person worship outdoors, which is somewhat disorienting. Do we sit or stand for the hymns? What if I can't get that plastic thingy off the juice cup to retrieve my wafer for communion? Oh, and look- someone's tithe check is blowing across the parking lot.

Sometimes, when we realize that it's not the end, that there are more pages of music of which we weren't even aware, the measures ahead can feel daunting – and even defeating. But music was written to be played. To add beauty and life and rhythm to the living of our days. And we, church, have music that is yet to be played. Unsung notes ready to grace the world. And here's the good news: it doesn't have to be perfect. We are all sight reading. But the music can't be made unless we turn the page.

With love, *Pastor Laura*



May 2

Outside Service @ 10:30am

May 9

Outside Service @ 10:30am

Happy Mother's Day!

May 16

Outside Service @ 4pm

Worship with Music & Song

May 23

Outside Service @ 10:30am

Pentecost!

May 30

TBA

Music for May Services:

Hello Pleasant Green family. I am writing to you as we enter a new season in our worship at Pleasant Green. I, as have many others, have missed our ability to make music and to worship together in the traditional format. That being said, we have still worshiped, made music, and found ways to stay connected as a church family throughout the past year. As we enter the month of May we will be moving to in-person outdoor worship each week. With this change from virtual to in-person worship **I'd like to ask for volunteers to provide special music for our upcoming services.** If you play an instrument, sing, or both, it would greatly enhance our worship services to have you share your talents with us. Instrumental solos, vocal solos, duets are all great!

Music is already planned for the upcoming Sunday of May 2nd, but **special music for an anthem is needed for the following Sundays: May 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th.** If you have any interest in providing music for any of these Sundays please email me at musicpgumc@gmail.com.

Blessings to you all, *Aaron*

A Wednesday Morning Webinar and Workshop Series in the Month of May

That's right – that means no "traditional" Wednesday morning Bible study.

We are changing pace for the month of May to take advantage and tune in to an offering from the Conference.

Here's a look at what to expect and how to plug in:

For three Wednesday's in May (the 12th, 19th, and 26th), I (Laura) invite anyone to participate in a webinar and workshop series with Susan Beaumont called "How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You are Going." I know – some of you may be thinking but I'm not a leader. I would challenge that statement with the belief that as followers of Jesus, we are all leaders and we are all followers. And as humans living in this world at this particular time, we are all navigating a time in our lives and world where the future is uncertain- which is the subject of this webinar.

A quick overview of each session:

Session One: Navigating a Liminal Season – Wednesday, May 12, 10am-11am

This series starts off with a free webinar introducing the concept of liminality and exploring the challenges and opportunities facing organizations in liminal space. The pandemic season is a liminal season. How do we lead in this time? This webinar is a prerequisite for the workshops that follow. Anyone who registers for a workshop will receive a link to join live or view the recording.

Session Two: Engaging the Soulfulness of Institution – Wednesday, May 19, 10am-11:30am

This session focuses on the soul as the authentic and truest self of the organization. In liminal seasons, we rely upon the soul of the institution to guide our leadership choices and our learning. This session explores spiritual shifts and practices that will help leaders connect with the soul of the institutions they lead.

Session Three: Coaxing Order out of Chaos – Wednesday, May 26, 10am-11:30am

Eventually, the process of disorientation we are experiencing will find resolution. This process is known as emergence. This final workshop will explore the process of emergence and how leaders can nurture an environment that invites meaning making, finding new purpose, and fostering innovation.

Two different ways to tune in:

1) Watch together on a big screen in the Fellowship Hall– in a safe manner, spaced out chairs and social-distanced. Please let me know ahead of time so that I can set up the Fellowship Hall.

2) Register on your own and watch from home on your own screen. The first webinar is free, the other two are \$35 for both– with a 20% discount if 3 or more of us register. (If you plan to watch in Fellowship Hall with me, no need to register or pay).

Link to register and/or learn more: <https://nccumc.org/leadership/event/beaumont-session-1/>
Contact me (Laura) if you have any questions or concerns!



Mr & Mrs Aponte!

Melody Link & Jonah Aponte married on 4.3.21
 Congratulations to the happy couple!



Save the date

Church-Wide Outdoor Wedding Shower for Laura & Charles

Sunday, May 23
 PGUMC Grounds, floating 3-5pm
 Please see the registry at [theknot.com/lauraandcharleskinstonnec](https://www.theknot.com/lauraandcharleskinstonnec)



OUTDOORS & IN-PERSON!

The Youth will be meeting in-person (outdoors & distanced) on Sunday afternoons in May! 3:45pm at our Eno House location- 903 Eno Street, Hillsborough. Please bring your own snacks and beverages.

2021 Pleasant Green Summer Camp!

Monday-Friday, 7:30am-5:45pm at PGUMC
 Week # 1: June 21 ~VBS- mornings / Summer Camp- afternoons
 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!



***Volunteers needed for VBS!**

Volunteer Registration: <https://forms.gle/h9fx8UCiC3KAF2Lk7>

Financial Update

2021 Unified Budget	327,037.42
YTD Total Income to Operating Fund	83,895.99
YTD Operating Expenses	87,235.30
YTD Operating Fund Balance	-3,339.31
2020 Operating Fund Balance Forward	18,065.45
2021 Current Actual Operating Fund Balance	14,726.14
Current Building Mortgage Balance	227,985.99

Easter Services



Tea Party



Millie Nichols, Sara Witt, Chloe & Charlotte Whitfield enjoy a tea party at George Ann McCay's, purchased at the UMW Auction!

Stations of the Cross



A conjunction of dates.

From Janice Nicholson

Something unusual happens in May this year. Astronomers frequently alert us to a conjunction of planets coming closer together in their orbits. This year we have a convergence in the United Methodist liturgical calendar when Pentecost falls on May 23 and Aldersgate Day is May 24. The date for Pentecost varies from year to year, coming 50 days after Easter. But Aldersgate Day is a fixed date, commemorating John Wesley's experience while attending a service at a Moravian chapel on Aldersgate Street in London in 1738.

Why do we Methodists have in our official calendar the date when our founder, a priest in the Church of England, attended a Moravian

service? John Wesley's experience that evening is usually described as pivotal, setting the course for his future ministry. As he listened to a reading from Martin Luther's preface to the Epistle of Romans, he felt his heart "strangely warmed" and for the first time he felt the assurance of his salvation. Wesley recorded in his journal "I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

Annie Dillard once wrote that we should wear crash helmets when we go to church to worship. Maybe she was thinking about times when the power of the Holy Spirit ignites the witness of believers with warmed hearts? Imagine what might happen then.

From the Prayer Ministry

On a Mother's Heart

*Listen my son (and daughter), to your father's instruction;
don't neglect your mother's teaching;
for they are a graceful wreath on your head,
and beads for your neck. Proverbs 1:8*

Dear Mothers and Mother-like people in our lives; we thank you for your love and the ways you have taught us to live. We thank you for the lessons you have taught us. We appreciate your sacrifice for us; that we are nourished and can develop. In times of conflict and distress, when we don't get along, help us all listen to one another. Let God's love and wisdom prevail as it flows within us. And, while we cannot repay you for all your gifts to us, help us remember you in special ways this Mother's Day and every day so that you know we love you.

Those thoughts are on many of our hearts this May, as we look forward to Mother's Day. But what is on a Mother's heart; especially a mother who has a child with special needs or a Mother of a child with a serious mental or physical illness? See page 8 for a Mother's prayer that may be prayed by many.

The Prayer Ministry meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm by free telephone conference. The next meeting is Wednesday, May 19th at 6:30 pm. Please join us, we'd love to have you! Contact Gail at pruettg4mh@gmail.com for more information, Meeting ID and passcode.

**The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide is provided to the Pleasant Green family by the United Methodist Women. Available in the Narthex!*

A Mother's Prayer For Mental Illness – Schizophrenia

By Dorothea A. Bawks

As I stumble from my bed this morning, help me to remember to be gentle and kind.

My child's mind is shredding into a million pieces. He lives in a constant state of atrocious fear. I can see it in his eyes. Give him peace.

Guide me as I hold him in my arms. Help me to know what to say. What to do. Fill my heart with healing love, understanding, and empathy.

Give me the strength of a thousand angels to hold back my tears. My heart is broken and a tidal wave of grief is overwhelming me with the need to cry. Give me the strength to bear it long enough to keep it from disturbing my child. Help me find someone I can safely bring it to.

Help me answer my family's questions with the same amount of compassion I would want for myself. Help me remember they are hurting too. This is an unwelcome assault on an entire family. My heart is not the only heart that is broken. We all need time and each other to heal.

As my journey becomes more and more isolate and lonely, remind me that the lack of involvement on the part of family and friends is not always because of the stigma and the ignorance. For many, it is because they are hurting too. They have the privilege of turning to their own lives. This is my family's life now. I must deal with it whether I am hurting or not.

Send me your best physicians and healers. Give me presence of mind, as I walk through the exhaustion of my grief to not settle for just any one no matter how tiresome the journey becomes.

Help me adjust to the idea, that although it appears my son is gone, there will be no goodbye. And that he is still inside somewhere waiting for us to find him.

Infuse the creative part of my mind with solution-oriented thinking. Give me hope. Even if it is just a glimmer of hope. A mother can go for miles on just one tiny glimmer. Let me see just a flicker of the sparkle of joy in his eyes.

Guide my hands, calm my mind, as I fill out the multitude of forms for services. Then help me do it again over and over.

Provide me with the knowledge. Lead me to the books I need to read, the organizations I need to connect with. As you work though the people in my life, help me to recognize those that are here to help. Help me trust the right ones. Shine a light upon the right path.

Give me the courage to speak my truth; to know my son's truth. And to speak for him when he is unable to do it for himself. Show me when to do for him what he is not capable of doing for himself. Help me to recognize the difference.

Help me to stand tall in the face of the stigma; to battle the discrimination with the mighty sword of a spiritual warrior. And to deflect the sting of blame and faultfinding from the ignorant and the cruel.

Preserve my love for my family. Shield my marriage with the wisdom of the love that brought us together.

Protect him from homelessness, loneliness, victimization, poverty, hunger, hopelessness, relapse, drugs, alcohol, suicide, cruelty and obscurity.

Lead us to the miracles of better medications, better funding, better services, safe and plentiful housing, meaningful employment, communities who care, enlightenment. Help us to find some way to replace all the greed with humanitarian work and intrinsic reward again.

Most of all, give me the strength to deliver whatever I can to the work of unmasking the man-made ugliness of this disease and revealing the human and all of it's suffering beneath.

Finally, when it is my time to leave my son behind, send a thousand angels to take my place.

Amen

**Permission was given to us by the author Dorie Bawks and I [Lane Frazer Cosgrove] have been able to acknowledge that on my new website 'Hopelinks': <https://hopelinks.info/schizophrenia-a-mother-s-prayer.html>. I believe that Dorie Bawks first shared A mother's prayer for mental illness in October of 2004. Since that time the prayer has enriched the lives of countless people. ('A Mother's Prayer' has been consistently among those 'most visited' on A Nouwen Network's website for many years.)*

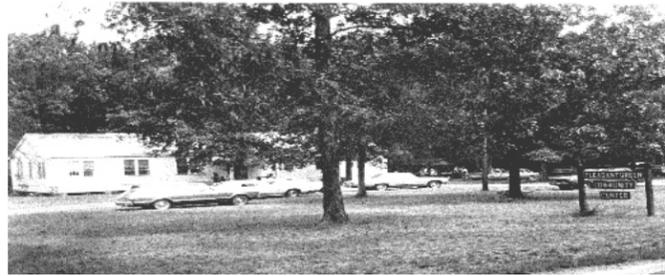
Giving

2021 Donations for the Pleasant Green Community Center

We have 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.



Brunswick Stew 1982

Habitat for Humanity Volunteers needed



Habitat for Humanity Orange County will be constructing two house in the Hillsborough area this summer. Each team can have 6 to 8 volunteers and must be sixteen or older. The work will be mostly outside on Saturdays from 9:00AM to 3:30PM.

If you are interested in being a part of a team from PG please contact Pastor Laura or Jim Perry.

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore is open at 672 N Churton St., Hillsborough to shop, donate & volunteer!



Families Moving Forward Donations Needed:

New single & double sheets, comforters & pillows, Diapers sizes 1,2,3,4, Toothpaste, Paper towels, Toilet paper, Small bottles of dish soap, Brooms, Dust pans, Bleach, Clorox disinfectant wipes, Low-sugar juice boxes, Vitamin Water zero, Gatorade zero, Sugar-free water bottle packs

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 also needed!



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.



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.

Pine Straw

Pine straw sold quickly this year and all purchases helped supported the 2021 Pleasant Green United Methodist Men's Building & Grounds Fundraiser. Thank you!

Wheelchair Drive

Our first 'Joni and Friends Wheels for the World' Wheel Chair Drives collected many chairs. Thanks to everyone who donated and Nancy Maloney for organizing.



Nancy Maloney, Becky Brogden dropping off a chair

Rose Garden

Thank you for everyone's hard work sanding and painting the rose garden fence!



Nancy and Andy Maloney, Al Edens, Becky and Jim Crawford, Sandy Quinn. (Not Pictured) Van McCay, Lou Kenny, Millie & Asher Nichols, Matt Matthews, Andrea Harris, Brian Wingo

Food For All

Dear All, With heavy hearts our group has decided to lay down the Food for All Ministry starting May 1, 2021...at least for now. It appears that, most likely due to COVID, there are many sources of food available in the community - which is the good news! However, this means that our program is no longer serving more than a handful of folks each night. Our cooks are preparing meals for many, but only few come.

We know the hard work and dedication that all of you have provided over the 16 years since Food For All started in 2005. At that time, sometimes up to 100 people came for meals in two locations. There was a deep need, and our organization was there to help meet that need. Should such a need arise again, I know that many of us will be ready to offer ourselves again.

Please let me know if there are concerns about this

Blood Drive

Since the pandemic, the blood drives at PGUMC have collected 244 units of blood, saving and impacting 732 lives! Thank you donors and volunteers!



Donnors pictured: Sara Collins Clark, Don Bennett and Dennis Nicholson. Volunteers: Don Bennett, Patsy Stranger, Becky Crawford, JoAnna Walker, Kelly Lee



THANK YOU

change, ideas for future work, or need for information about other food programs your groups may contribute to. I know that the meals program appeals to many who love to cook for others, and we are trying to find other such programs as well so that we can give our loyal clients this information. Also, we know there are still folks out there who need access to healthy food, and if COVID related food programs go away, there may arise a need for us to come back into life again.

We especially want to thank members of these churches and organizations who have so graciously and generously donated your time, resources, and energy,

Thank you all so much and stay in touch!
Pam, Hugh, Pat, Dani, Mickey, Todd



Pleasant Green *United Methodist Church*

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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 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. Inspiration for the whole family right at your fingertips.



Blood Drive at PGUMC

June 30th (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 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>

**PLEASE
RECYCLE**

