



PleasantGreen
United Methodist Church

PleasantGreenUMC.org

Roots & Branches

May 2019



Preparing for Resurrection

Happy Easter!

Dear friends, I write to you on Holy Saturday, even though I know you will be reading this after we have gathered, celebrated and worshiped together on Easter Sunday. Holy Saturday does not get much recognition in our individual or communal lives. We gather on Maundy Thursday, remembering Jesus' command to love each other, specifically by gathering at a Table with friends and washing one another's feet. We gather on Good Friday, remembering the final words and moments of Jesus' life, ending the night in darkness and in silence.

In John's gospel, for all the words that are written about the trial, crucifixion, and death of Jesus on Friday, there is not one word uttered between the crucifixion and the resurrection. And yet, things did happen between the crucifixion and the resurrection. John 19:38-42 reports that Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus went to the tomb. They took with them a mixture of myrrh and aloes and wrapped the body of Jesus with the spices and linen cloths. They laid the body of Jesus there in the garden tomb. In our twenty-first century world, we don't exactly care for bodies at a time of death in this particular way.

While there are a myriad of ways we could interpret these simple acts of Joseph and Nicodemus, they are nonetheless acts of devotion. Maybe in their minds, they were just doing what they knew must be done – preparing a body for burial. But perhaps they were also unconsciously preparing for resurrection.

My mind harkens not only to the silence of Holy Saturday, but also to the ways we prepare for resurrection. On that day before Easter, the men gathered to assemble casseroles for breakfast the next day. The printer in the office was spitting out bulletins and worship orders for the following day. Lawn mowers and weed eaters were fired up as our space was being prepared and being made presentable. Women were decorating crosses and placing Easter lilies throughout the sanctuary. Maybe we were all simply doing what we knew needed to be done. And yet at the same time, we were also preparing for resurrection, knowing what those early disciples did not know – that death does not get the last word. That resurrection happens. That new life is possible.

Holy Saturday is one of those in-between times. A time of watching and waiting and mourning and praying... and preparing. We still live in the in-between. We sit with the promises of God that are but not yet fulfilled in their completeness. We still grieve, rejoice, feel anxious and fearful, and joyful – sometimes all in the same day. What we know and claim is that "Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed." And so, we live out our days much like those disciples – doing what must be done, all the while trusting that seeds of new life are being planted.

Easter is not a day. Easter is a 50-day season in our church. And every Sunday we gather, we celebrate a "mini-Easter." As we go throughout this season, it is my prayer that we pay attention to the ways that we, too, are preparing for Resurrection. Where do we expect to find God in our lives? How are we stepping into the dark graves of the world to tend to broken bodies? In what ways are we joining Mary in her witness and proclamation? How are we telling the good news that "I have seen the Lord!" In all we say and do, may we continually prepare for the Resurrection. And may that Easter wonder and delight be yours this season.

In the peace of the risen and crucified Christ,

Laura

1 Corinthians 12:26 (NRSV) - *If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.*

Now that Easter is over, the Prayer Ministry would like to encourage all of us to continue with Jesus Christ's legacy. Yes, that means through exams, graduations, baby and bridal showers, picnics, warm weather, summer vacations, and slower, more languid days. What does continuing Jesus' Easter legacy look like? How do we spread Jesus's peace, love, and humble service? The Upper Room devotional from Wednesday, April 17 gives us some guidance. In this article, author Sam Wright from Florida, talks about the sustaining and strong support his church members gave him and his family when their son was killed in a motorcycle accident. If it had not been for the church feeling their pain, praying, providing food and comfort, Mr. Wright does not know how he and his family would have survived.

The caring for Mr. Wright's family made me think of our church family. There is a dedicated, devoted group of men and women here who provide meals to families who have lost loved ones; visit those who are ill or homebound, send cards, telephone, cut lawns, repair roofs and broken railings, build ramps, and many more things. Their compassion and Christ-led service lifts the spirits of our hurting loved ones at Pleasant Green. This service and compassion deepens their faith and relationship with Jesus and spreads God's love, continuing the Easter legacy without even thinking about it! These acts of love and kindness are good lessons for all of us to follow. Picking up the telephone, packaging the extra food we have and taking it to someone who can no longer cook, picking some flowers and going to visit are all ways to share God's love.

The prayer ministry will be praying for all of these Christ-led ministers during this next month. Join us wherever you are as we praise and thank God for the gifts and talents He has given them, in addition to lifting up each of these people to ask God for blessings on them.

This is the first in a series of monthly articles about the devotion and contributions of our ministries.

Our next Prayer Ministry meeting is on Wednesday, May 15th at 6:30 pm. Be with us as we pray for the ministries in the church and our church as a whole, the people on our prayer list and local, state, national, and international events. All are welcome!

This poem was written during the Lenten Centering time in the Chapel by Andrea Harris .

When I am afraid and the struggles of life
Overwhelm me, I look to the cross.

When I realize how fragile my body is,
I look to the cross.

When I can't seem to navigate life's journey,
I look to the cross.

When I feel alone and in despair,
I look to the cross.

When I want to be renewed,
I look to the cross.

When I can't find my way out of trouble,
I look to the cross.

When I look at the world's brokenness,
I look to the cross.

When I want peace,
I look to the cross.

When I am weak and seek strength,
I look to the cross.

Amen



From Kelsey Carter, Duke Intern

Thank you to all of those who came to Quilting with Kelsey last month. We spent some time talking about the sermon quilts of Harriet Powers and the power in sharing one's voice in the things we make with our hands. Sermons come in a variety of forms. For Harriet Powers, an African American artist and former slave who



lived from 1837–1910, sermons took the form of quilts. Unlike most quilts crafted during her life-time, Powers' quilts told biblical stories, recounted legends, and carried messages of divine judgment and hope. We gathered around the quilt that I have been

piecing based on the lectionary scriptures of Lent and stitched the night away and I'm so grateful for your willingness to try a new thing together.





El Salvador Mission Trip July 20 - 27

We are partnering with Raeford UMC again this year. They are sending 4 members, including their pastor, Brian Wingo. They are busy hosting fundraisers to help meet the budget. **PGUMC is sending 13!**

Each participant is required to contribute \$200 from personal funds. There are 2 scholarships being awarded to those who might not otherwise be able to participate.

- \$1,000 is spent for the Food Ministry which distributes bags of groceries to the needy in the Ahuachapan community.
- \$4,000 buys the building materials needed for the church construction we will be doing.
- \$100 is spent for Bible School supplies.
Additional costs include air travel, insurance, and lodging expenses.

No monetary value can be placed on spreading God's word, loving our neighbors and building relationships.

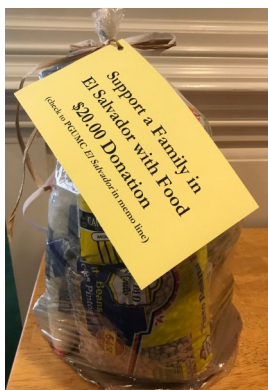
The Mission Team needs your help in making this successful! Mark your calendar for May 5th and attend the Taco Lunch fundraiser after the worship service. Invite family and friends! Please make a monetary donation directly to the El Salvador Mission Fund to help us raise the remaining \$7,000 still needed. As always, the team thanks you and appreciates your generosity!

Taco Salad Lunch on Sunday, May 5 ***after the 11 o'clock service***

Menu: taco salad with tomatoes, black beans, guacamole, sour cream, dessert, coffee and tea.

\$8.00 adults / \$5.00 under 12

Support a Family in Ahuachapan, El Salvador!



Food distribution in
El Salvador

With a donation of \$20 you can supply a family with rice, beans, sugar, oil, salt, soup, coffee and spaghetti.

Write checks to PGUMC with El Salvador Food on the memo line.



Happy 90th Birthday to Peggy Wilson on March 31!

***Peggy joined
Pleasant Green Church
on September 8, 1939!***

Join us on
Sunday, May 5
when we honor
our interns:
Kelsey Carter
&
Dylan Parson.



Waverly Cait Mize

***Daughter of Kailey & Zach Mize,
sister of Johnathan, Brynlee & Ainsleigh and
granddaughter of
Cathy & Dwayne
Marlowe,
born on March 25
weighing 8 pounds.***



~ **Pleasant Greeners Lunch** ~ **Wednesday, May 22 at Noon** ***Lunch Provided!***



***Thanks to
Steven Collins
for
entertainment
at our
March lunch.***

May Youth Calendar

May 5 ~ 4 - 6 pm ~ Lessons

May 12 ~ YOUTH SUNDAY ~ 11am Service

May 19 ~ 5 - 7:30 pm

Mark Your Calendar!

June 16 - 21 ~ Youth Mission Trip

July 14 - 15 ~ Youth Retreat

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH:

American Cancer Society Relay For Life
~ May 18 ~

To Donate: main.acsevents.org/goto/ryanmont

**BINGO for a
CURE**



YOUTH SUNDAY – APRIL 14



Pleasant Green youth - Sara Witt & Millie Nichols - have been selected to dance in the New York Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. They need help raising the funds for this "once in a lifetime trip." Please contact them if you have home or yard jobs: Sara 919-383-8691 or Millie 919-698-3770.

Easter at Pleasant Green with youth & children



We welcome our new
Duke Divinity School Ministerial Interns!



Hello, Pleasant Green!
 My name is Keli Pennington.
 I moved to Durham last August
 from southern Illinois to begin my
 studies at Duke Divinity School. I
 grew up in the United Methodist
 Church and am seeking ordination in the Free
 Methodist Church. When I'm not reading for
 school, I enjoy cooking, hiking, and spending time
 with my husband, Willem, and our cat, Pippa. I'm
 looking forward to meeting you soon and spending
 the summer with you all!

Hello, I am Michael Larbi.
 I am just completing my first year
 at Duke Divinity School, studying
 for a Masters in Divinity as part
 of preparation to become an or-
 dained Elder. I'm an accredited
 Local Preacher in the British
 Methodist Church (equivalent to Licensed Local
 Pastor in the UMC) and my home church is
 Methodist Central Hall Westminster in London,
 England. Before coming to Duke, I was an intern
 in a Korean Methodist Church in Seoul, South
 Korea for a couple of years. This is the first time I
 would be serving in a UMC local church and I am
 eagerly looking forward to being with and learning
 from you this summer.



Save June Dates!

Pleasant Green's high school & college gradu-
 ates will be honored at a luncheon for graduates
 and families on Sunday, June 2.



We will welcome P G's Confirmation Class into
 church membership on Sunday, June 9.

*Sydney Baker, Jack Frank, Lily Frank,
 Max McCurdy, Jack McCurdy & Asher Nichols*

Pie Fundraiser for Common Thread Ministry
 on Father's Day ~ Sunday, June 16.

Sip & Paint Fundraiser

Anyone can do this! The instructor provides a drawing of
 the church on white canvas with the exact paint colors and
 instructions to make a lovely painting suitable for framing!
 ~ Saturday, June 15 ~ 9 am - 11 am in the Fellowship Hall ~
 Cost: \$40.00 per person with \$10 per partici-
 pant donated back to PGUMC – to help
 substitute the canceled pine straw fund
 raiser. Class size is limited to 20.

Come have fun and be creative!

To sign up email: cathymarlowe@nc.rr.com



Mark Your Summer Calendar!



Vacation Bible School

July 8 — 12

9:00 am — 12:30 pm

TO MARS and BEYOND

Register at: <http://bit.ly/PGVBS19>



PGUMC SUMMER CAMP

June 24 - July 26

(Closed July 4th week)

Rising 1st graders - Rising 6th graders

~ 7:30 am - 5:45 pm ~

**Registration forms are in the Narthex
 or on the church website.**



Pleasant Green Summer Camp 2019

There are not many things that grow and
 thrive for 28 years! One of our longest
 running mission projects at Pleasant Green
 UMC is the Afterschool and Summer Camp
 Program. At the time it began, there were
 plenty of daycares for little children but
 elementary school age children were fre-
 quently known as "latchkey" kids and left on their own
 after school or during summer vacation while parents
 worked. Pleasant Green Afterschool was started to fill
 that gap and the need was great. Currently we receive
 children from our church family, the Pleasant Green
 community and three Orange County schools, some of
 whom are recommended by their school counselors or
 other County personnel. Some of these children would
 be unable to participate were it not for generous
 scholarship support by our congregation. Summer
 Camp begins June 24. The cost is \$165 per week. There
 will be 4 weeks of Camp this year and campers will
 participate in Vacation Bible School and Drama Camp
 with Wayne Leonard, in addition to outings to various
 places of interest in the community.



We hope our church will once again feel led to help
 support the activities, transportation, materials and
 scholarships for Summer Camp 2019.

***Honor your Mother, Grandmother, loving caregiver
 or the mother of your grandchildren on Mother's
 Day by making a donation to support a Summer
 Camper with a contribution in any amount.
 Helping to provide the means to support Summer
 Camp is an affirmation of the high standard of
 care we all want for all children.***



To My PGUMC family..

There really are no words to express my gratitude for all your thoughts, prayers, gifts, cards and visits over the past 8 months of my treatments. I am truly blessed to have found 'family' here!! Treatment is complete, and hopefully soon the energy will return!! Blessings to all of you! He is risen indeed!!!! *Val Ostoyich*

Dear PGUMC,

There are so many ways that our church family reaches the community and shares our love with others. One of the most meaningful programs we support is our After-school Program. Countless young people's lives have been touched since our program began. This year we started a new adventure by asking for volunteers to read with our after schoolers. When we began, our focus was to have volunteers read with our children and help when necessary with their reading skills. We quickly saw how this was received and it has now evolved into reading, and assistance with all types of homework. Not only has this been a benefit to their performance in school, but it also has made each participant feel special and loved. The Afterschool staff is so grateful to Laura Cox, Kathy DuLaney, Patsy Stranger, Kathryn Dempsey, Becky Crawford, Will Witt, Debbie Collins, Tricia Lipton and George Ann McCay for their time, dedication to our kids, and the love they have shared with each of them. You all have been a blessing in so many ways. *PGUMC Afterschool Staff*

PG Church Family & Ginger Link,
Thank you for remembering Gayle in your prayers during worship at Pleasant Green.

The Family of Gayle Amshay, Don & Laura

PG Church,
Thank you for all of your prayers and get well wishes.
God Bless. *Kimberly Harshaw (K teacher at Pathways)*



Celebrating United Methodist Women

At the April women's luncheon, Camilla Davis gave a brief history of the United Methodist Women who are celebrating their 150th anniversary this spring (as is the city of Durham!) having begun in 1869 as the Women's Foreign Missionary Society in the Methodist Episcopal Church.



Martha Walker reported on the activities throughout the years of the P G Women's Group.

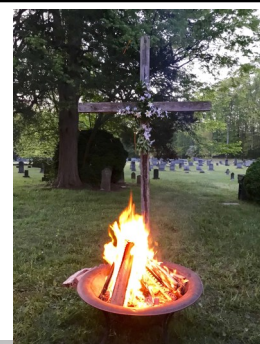
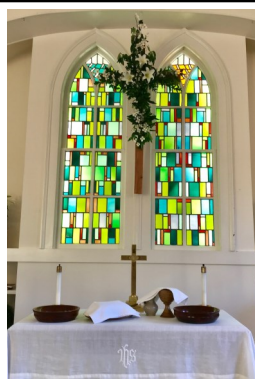
Methodist women came together to serve the needs of women, children and youth around the world AND within their own communities. By 1916 (according to The Southern Lady from Pedestal to Politics 1830-1930 by Anne Firor Scott) the organization adopted a program that included abolition of child labor, reduction of illiteracy, prison reform, and bettering relations among races.

The spirit of mission continues to be shown in many ways. A recent article in a newsletter from the Environmental Defense Fund included a photograph and article about a group of women marching up a street last year in San Ramon, California to hand-deliver 1800 letters to Chevron, calling on the company to tackle methane leaks. Chevron is one of the largest US producers of natural gas. Each year 14 million tons escape from US oil and gas operations causing over 25 percent of global warming. Several months later Chevron joined other oil and gas giants committed to reducing methane emissions to near zero by 2025. The goal of the UMW in this situation: "to urge Chevron to protect the health of our people and God's earth."

Our local UMW provides Afterschool Scholarships, makes available Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate, takes part in the Food for All program, supports Common Threads, provides copies of The Upper Room to the congregation, provides a Back Pack program for a local school, and many other activities.

Easter Sunday

(record 182 at
11:00 am Worship)



Thanks to the UMM cooks!



Mark your May Calendar!

Eleanor Walker Circle
7:00 pm — May 6



Taco Lunch on Sunday, May 5
after the 11 o'clock service

6 pm on Tuesday, May 7
Connectional Table Meeting

Summer Choir Practice Schedule

The last choir rehearsal before summer is **Wednesday May 8th** at 7 pm. Beginning Sunday, June 2 the choir gathers in the choir room at 9:50am to practice before 10:30 Worship.



**Volunteers needed for
VBS ~ July 8 - 12**

VBS Planning Meeting

Monday, May 13 at 6:30 pm

Questions? Call Wendy at 919-630-1939



Circle of Faith ~ May 16
6:30 pm at Saratoga

**Relay for Life Fundraiser
Efland Ruritan Club**

May 18 ~ 4:00 - 10:00 pm

*Support our youth in the
American Cancer Society Relay For Life*

Activities: Food, Face Painting, Music,
Bounce House, Fire Truck



"Worship at the Eno" on May 19th

10:30 am followed by lunch!



***Meat provided - please bring side
dishes, desserts & drinks.***

***Common Thread A Ministry
to Comfort the Dying***



"Common Thread" provides happy, colorful butterfly pillowcases to those dying in hospice, nursing homes and in their own homes. All are welcome to join us **Saturday, May 25** at 9:30am.



**Join us at
PGUMC Summer Worship**

**We will have ONE service
only at 10:30 am.**

Sunday, May 26 - Sunday, September 1
Memorial Day - Labor Day

9:15 - Gathering and Breakfast

9:30 - Sunday School

10:30 - Worship in the Sanctuary



Come enjoy the music of our

PRAISE BAND

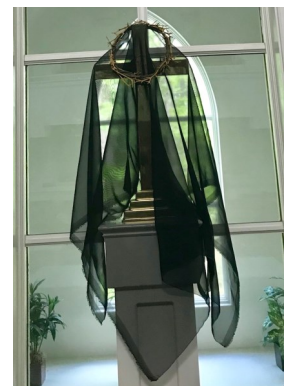
the last Sunday of each month!

FOOD FOR ALL

**This ministry for the Homeless & Working
Poor of Orange County Needs YOU!**

***Groups within the church are encouraged to
sponsor a FOOD FOR ALL night once a year.***

***Thanks to all who cleaned and set up to
make our church beautiful for Easter!***





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

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE PAID
Durham, NC 27705
Permit No. 5

Address Service Requested

Website: PleasantGreenUMC.org

Pastor - Rev. Laura Thompson (919) 383-2339

lthompson@nccumc.org

Interim Director of Youth Ministry-Richard Cassidy
richard.l.cassidy@gsk.com



Please recycle this newsletter.



The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide
is provided free of charge to the
Pleasant Green congregation
by the United Methodist Women.
You may pick up a copy in the Narthex.

On Hillsborough's LAST FRIDAYS – come by and see us at the
Orange County United Methodist Churches booth!



Mark your calendars!

"Worship at the Eno" on May 19th ~ 10:30 am ~ followed by lunch
Meat provided - please bring side dishes, desserts & drinks.

Summer Worship Schedule ~ Memorial Day - Labor Day

9:15 - Gathering and Breakfast / 9:30 - Sunday School

10:30 - Worship in the Sanctuary

**CHANGE
THE WORLD**

May 18-19, is Change the World weekend, a time when thousands of United Methodists will team up to make the world a better place. The real power of Change the World is that having all the events on one weekend demonstrates the impact of what we can achieve together. Think what could be accomplished if everyone spent an occasional weekend helping a neighbor or volunteering our time!

Undergirding these activities is not just about providing social services. It's about reflecting the call of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 25 to serve the needs of the poor, the ill and those who are oppressed as an expression of faithfulness to him. To follow Jesus is to be a servant who seeks to change the world.



**LETTER CARRIERS'
FOOD DRIVE
SAT., MAY 11, 2019**