



ROOTS & BRANCHES

NOVEMBER 2021

PleasantGreenUMC.org



Pastor’s Top 5

I’ve always believed that multiples things can be true at the same time – I can laugh in moments of sorrow. I can feel grief in seasons of joy. I can be scared even when things are going well. It seems as if this is a season of our lives when many things are true – all at the same time. And here are 5 things that are occupying my heart and mind: things worth celebrating, things that are challenging; things worth pondering, things worthy of our prayers. Things worth naming that are happing in our midst.

1. New leadership

Here are a few highlights of folks stepping in to new roles at PG: Sara Collins coordinating volunteers for Children’s Church. Youth leaders including Matt & Julie McCay, Matt & Mindy Vukmer, Richard & Betsy Cassidy, & Wendy Anderson. Admin Council graciously thanks those rotating off leadership (Matt McCay, Theresa Stocking, & John Link) and welcomes Diane Wingo, Ceil Matthews, Gail Pruett, and Richard Cassidy to serve as chair. We are also so grateful to Ceil Matthews for stepping in as our new Worship Committee Chair.

2. Advent

We weren’t together in person last Advent. This year will be different. We will worship together again. I am anticipating this season of Advent when we will explore deeper this theme of being “Home” — after a long pandemic season profoundly oriented around our physical homes, the disorientation that has left many of us feeling “homeless,” and how God makes a home with us, Emmanuel, God with us. May we find sanctuary in our worship, liturgy, and prayers that will guide us this season.

3. A new season of ministry for Youth & Children

We are finally moving forward again in these areas of ministry! Children’s Church will begin again on the first Sunday of Advent (Nov 28). We are looking for volunteers to help in this area of ministry. Youth kickoff will take place on Sunday afternoon, November 7th! Spread the word!

4. Ongoing challenges

I often wonder what the church of the future will be. The pandemic changed us. Some haven’t returned. Sunday school classes went from six to one. People got used to... life without church. Finding a way forward is not easy. Last year was hard, but at least the path immediately in front of us was straightforward: social distancing, online worship; it was not safe to gather. The pandemic accelerated trends we have been hearing about for years: a decline in attendance and a shrinking church. I’m not really sure what to do with that...

5. An active October

I certainly don’t believe activity for the sake of activity is good. However, I am grateful for momentum in multiple areas of ministry: the prayer team continues to faithfully meet and pray together, Common Thread continues their ministry with people in hospice, a worship committee meets to discuss upcoming liturgical seasons, multiple circles gathering, a successful auction, and a fun gathering on Halloween weekend. Thanks be to God!

Thanks for reading. See you soon. God’s shalom,

Laura

REMINDER:
FALL STEW
CANCELLATION

Considering current circumstances and uncertainty of the coming months, we are once again canceling the Stew out an abundance of caution. We hope the tradition will resume in the spring! Thank you for your support and understanding!

Financial Update

2021 Unified Budget	327,037.42
YTD Total Income to Operating Fund	232,738.71
YTD Operating Expenses	230,957.73
YTD Operating Fund Balance	1,780.98
2020 Operating Fund Balance Forward	18,065.45
2021 Current Actual Operating Fund Balance	19,846.43
Current Building Mortgage Balance	198,596.30
<i>*Please consider donations to our Discretionary Fund so that we may continue to help others in need! Thank you!</i>	

WIFI CONNECTIONS

Upstairs:

TP-Link 2.4Ghz- 80BA40
TP-Link 2.4Ghz- 80BA39
more distance/slower connection
TP-Link 5Ghz – 80BA39
less distance/faster connection

Downstairs:

MySpectrumWifi76- 2G
MySpectrumWifi76- 5G
Password - unioneptic548



The 2021 UMW Online Auction raised a RECORD \$11,000 this year! Proceeds from the auction will help support UMW local, national and world-wide missions! These funds also support the PGUMC Afterschool Program, United Methodist Children’s Home, Orange County Congregations In missons (OCIM), Durham Urban Ministries and much more!

This is the second year that the auction has been exclusively online, and has been a huge success! A heartfelt thanks to all the donors, bidders, Eleanor Walker Circle and Dream Weavers!

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Every Sunday @ 10:30 am,
in person or on our [live YouTube](#) stream!



Welcome Baby Olivia!

Congratulations on the birth of Oliva Jane Hohns on October 12th, weighing 8 pounds & 4 ounces. She is the daughter of Lorianna & Zach, sister of Grace and granddaughter of Wandra Whitford.



Welcome Baby Lily!

Congratulations on the birth of Lily Anne Jacks on October 30th, weighing 8 pounds & 1 ounce. She is the daughter of Liz & Luke and granddaughter of John & Ginger Link.

Dear Pleasant Green,
Greetings! Luke, Lily and I would love to thank everyone for the lovely and blessed baby shower celebration for Lily. All the preparation, love, support, care, prayers, and generosity through gifts for her have been such blessings to our family. So grateful to be part of Pleasant Green for 30 plus years.
Love, Liz, Luke & Lily Jacks

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church will be starting back the first Sunday of Advent– November 28th!

We need volunteers! If you're interested in helping, please sign up [HERE!](#) For those new to volunteering in this role, we will have a brief meeting one Sunday in November to do some overview of what's expected.

Thank you to Sara Clark for coordinating our volunteers and calendar!

11/07

YOUTH CONNECTION IS BACK.

GRADE 6-12 ARE WELCOME TO JOIN PLEASANT GREEN UMC YOUTH CONNECTION - CREATING COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS THROUGH FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND SERVICE.

DINNER PROVIDED. ALL 6-12 GRADE YOUTH WELCOME.

NOVEMBER 7, 2021
4PM - 6PM
*MORE DATES TO FOLLOW

PLEASANT GREEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
3005 PLEASANT GREEN ROAD, DURHAM, NC 27705

We're excited to welcome the YOUTH back on Sunday, November 7th! We will meet at the church from 4-6pm for a kickoff with activities and pizza. Please wear a mask indoors except when eating. We hope to see you there! Friends and other youth around our community are welcome!

"One of my desires and passions in the church is youth ministry and I am excited to be able to help you all bring a vital part of ministry back to life after the pandemic. My hope and prayer is that we can begin to rebuild and engage our youth back into the life of the church."

-Emily Robbian
Duke Divinity Intern, PGUMC

For easier communication, we have set up a remind account for parents and students. Please follow this link and join. <https://www.remind.com/join/pgumcyo>. Or you can text @pgumcyo to 81010 to be added to the group.

If you would like to help or volunteer in our programming or simply offer the gift of your presence with the youth, please let me know. For questions or concerns contact Emily at EMR53@duke.edu or by phone at 336-847-5486.



Join the UMW Book Club!

We are excited about our new UMW Book Club! The Club will read books from the Reading Program list and meet on the following dates, 6-7pm.

Book choices for the first 3 discussions.

11/1 – *Grit in Juarez*, Marion Surlles

12/13 – *Dinner by Candlelight*, Kevin Louise Schaner

1/10 – *Great Small Things*, Jodi Picoult

The book discussions will be facilitated by Jeanne Murray. Jeanne is a wonderful United Methodist Woman, a Lay Speaker and a retired English teacher. To receive the ZOOM link for the discussions, please send an email to NCCUMW.Webmaster@gmail.com.

Encourage children and youth to engage in spiritual growth studies by participating in the reading program. We invite them to view the UMW catalog at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/ReadingProgramCatalog2021.pdf>. You can obtain books through public libraries, local bookstores, bookstore chains and some are available in the Parlor at PGUMC. When ordering books through Amazon, visit smile.amazon.com and select United Methodist Women as your charitable organization.

If you do not have time to read, listen to the United Methodist Women's "Faith Talks" podcast at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks or the "response" podcast at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/responsepodcast>. You can also subscribe to these podcasts through Apple, Google and Spotify, etc. Check out UMW on YouTube. There are lots of ways to stay in the loop!

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

-Mahatma Gandhi

Read and Seed Patch

From Cindy Stubbs

We gathered on Tuesday, October 5, to discuss *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell*. Janice got witty with the treats, providing carrot cake to improve eyesight (ophthalmologist-approved!), and cheese and crackers (two-sided crackers nonetheless, showing Sam's split on how he should present himself!). It was our last in-person meeting for this year, and it was a pleasant evening to discuss a smart book. There were many facets of life included in the book: bullying, domestic violence, faith issues, mother/son relationships - to name a few. The book was enjoyed by all present. We cared about the characters (well, most of them!) and enjoyed how the book came together.

I recommended a book that I believe would make a good "book flight" with this one. *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli, a young adult book, deals with some of the same issues, but primarily how one sees themselves. Are you going to be yourself, or blend in and be one of "them"? Great story and a quick read if you are interested.

As usual, our discussion then proceeded to cover books we had read lately. Here are some of the titles we mentioned. You will notice some repeats as others are now reading books mentioned before. The list includes *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes, *Chasing Fireflies* by Charles Martin, *Cry Macho*— a recently released Clint Eastwood movie, *Murderbot* series (more about this soon), *Greenlights* by Matthew McConaughey, *Death on the Enchanted* by Amanda MacKay, *Laundry Love* by Patric Richardson, *Long way down* by Jason Reynolds(?), *Once and Future Witches* by Alix E. Harrow (which I have now finished and thoroughly enjoyed), *Caste: The Origin of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson, *A Boy Called Christmas* by Matt Haig (our December read), and *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles (who also wrote the book we loved, *A Gentleman in Moscow*).

The *Murderbot* series starts with *All Systems Red*, our book for November. We are stepping into Science fiction, an area we have not really explored so far. It is a short read, but quite popular at the library. I own the book and once I read it, I will offer it up for anyone that needs it. Our December book is *A Boy Called Christmas* by Matt Haig. We will meet on Zoom until the Spring, continuing to gather on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. While we will miss the treats, it will be good to continue our monthly get-togethers and continue to plant seeds which grow and grow and grow! Hope you can join us on Zoom! <https://nccumc.zoom.us/j/99801109814>

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 All Saints Day UMW Book Club 6pm	2 Read & Seed Patch 6:30pm Katie Spencer Wright Alden Conner Kevin Rittenhouse	3 Bible Study 10:30am	4 Mental Heath Discussion 6:30pm	5	6 Trail Walk @ Spring Forest 6pm
Sunday	Tessa Kankelfritz		Gavin Vukmer Will Weaver		Heather Ray	Caroline Paige Clark
7 All Saints Sunday Worship 10:30am Traveling Worship YOUTH 4-6pm	8 Charge Conference 8pm	9	10 Bible Study 10:30am Dream Weavers 7pm	11	12	13
		Kyle Meier	Anna Freeman Hughes	Tim Owens	Sarah Grace Alley	Perry Wright
14 Worship 10:30am Diaper Drive Ends	15 Eleanor Walker Circle 7pm Praise Band 7pm Charlotte Overaker Richard Ray	16	17 Bible Study 10:30am Prayer Ministry 6:30pm BLOOD DRIVE Roger Bass	18 Circle of Faith 6:30pm	19	20 Common Thread 9:30am
21 Worship 10:30am Cathy Marlowe Luke Wilson	22 Praise Band 7pm Will Tapley Ray	23	24 Bible Study 10:30am	25 Thanksgiving June Stilley Connie Riley Rick Riley Theresa Stocking	26 Abbie Bowlin	27
28 1st Sunday of Advent Worship 10:30am Praise Band & Children's Church	29 Billy Walker	30 Charles Bowden Cassie Lipton Camilla Davis				

Reflections on Thanksgiving -by Janice Nicholson

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving in the year of our Lord 2021, it is a good time to reflect on why this day is on our calendars. For some, the day may be an occasion for stuffing ourselves, as well as a turkey, or for watching multiple football games. But for most of us, the focus is giving thanks for all God’s blessings, a message found throughout the Psalms. Thanksgiving for the colonists in America may have been based on Judaism’s fall harvest festival, Sukkot, also known as the Feast of Tabernacles, a holiday is described in the Bible, in the book of Deuteronomy.

George Washington’s proclamation of October 1789 recommended “to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer.” This recommendation was objected to by some, as it was viewed as taking authority away from the states, many of which issued their own proclamations for a day of thanksgiving on a variety of dates. Thanksgiving in the United States continued to be observed in a haphazard way, with different days observed in different places in different ways.

Exactly seventy-four years from the date on which George Washington issued his proclamation, Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation for a national day of Thanksgiving in 1863, in the midst of the Civil War. A book about the long campaign to establish a national annual day of Thanksgiving is called *We Gather Together*. In writing about Lincoln’s proclamation, the author asks “Could Washington have imagined that, not one hundred years after his proclamation, the nation he had seen come into being would be threatened from within its own borders by divisiveness and hatred?”



Bible Study 10:30 am, Wednesday’s, Zoom

- 1 UMW Book Club** 6:00 pm, Zoom (pg. 4)
- 2 Read & Seed Patch** 6:30 pm, Zoom (pg. 4)
Contact Cindy at fireflyfarm2015@gmail.com
https://nccumc.zoom.us/j/99801109814
- 4 Mental Health Discussion** 6:30 - 8:00 pm, Zoom (pg. 9)
- 6 Trail Walk at Spring Forest** 6:00 pm
1907 New Sharon Church Rd, Hillsborough
All are welcome! Bring a dish to share, camp chair, water bottle and flash light.
- 7 Traveling Worship After 10:30am Worship** (pg. 9)
YOUTH Connection 4:00 - 6:00 pm, PGUMC (pg. 3)
- 8 Charge Conference** 8:00 pm, Zoom
- 10 Dream Weavers Circle** 6:00 pm, Parsonage
- 14 Diaper Drive Ends**
Sponsored by The Eleanor Walker Circle. The Diaper Bank of NC supplies diapers (all sizes), feminine hygiene products, and adult incontinence supplies to families living in poverty through community-based organizations across NC. Your donations can be left in the narthex through 11/14. Thank you for supporting this event!
- 15 Eleanor Walker Circle** 7:00 pm, PGUMC
- 17 Blood Drive** 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, PGUMC
To donate or volunteer, call 919.383.5764, email pgumc@ncrrbiz.com or go to redcrossblood.org
Sponsor code: Pleasant Green
- Prayer Ministry** 6:30 pm, Clyde Walker Classroom (pg. 9)
All are welcome! Contact Gail at pruettg4mh@gmail.com.
- 18 Circle of Faith** 6:30 pm, PGUMC
- 20 Common Thread Ministry** 9:30 am, Fellowship Hall
All are welcome! Contact Gloria Perry at 919-971-0924
- 28 Children’s Church** during 10:30 am Worship (pg. 3)
- December**
- 5 Baby shower for Kaleigh** 2:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
Organized by the Eleanor Walker Circle. Kaleigh Freeman McCoy’s baby will be arriving soon so we will know if it’s a boy or a girl!
- 5-10 Online Mission Market**
With 32auctions, more details to come
- 11 Mission Market** 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, PGUMC
Homemade cookies, cakes, candies, breads, canned goods & more! \$9.00 / lb. Handcrafted items: Jewelry, ornaments, knitting, Salvadoran items, stocking stuffers & other gifts! **Please consider donating** Christmas treats, gift items and home baked goods for the Mission Market. For any donated food we ask that you provide a list of ingredients to avoid allergy issues. Sponsored by the Missions Team at Pleasant Green.

Halloween

A collage of 18 Polaroid-style photographs capturing various Halloween activities. The photos show people in costumes (like Spider-Man, Dora, and a girl in a yellow dress), groups of friends and families posing, children playing games, and a large group sitting on the grass for a movie night. The word "Halloween" is written in a large, orange, cursive font at the top.

A group of approximately 15 children are posing for a group photo in an outdoor setting decorated for Halloween. The children are wearing a variety of costumes, including several witch hats, a skeleton bodysuit, and a person dressed as 'The Grinch'. They are standing in front of a wooden building with string lights hanging from the roof. In the foreground, there is a large black cauldron with a skeleton inside it, and a small broomstick is leaning against it. The background is decorated with pumpkins, a witch's broom, and other Halloween-themed items.



NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD; FOR HE IS GOOD: FOR HIS MERCY ENDURETH FOREVER.

Psalms 136:1 - 127:2

GIVING THANKS ALWAYS FOR ALL THINGS UNTO GOD AND THE FATHER IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Ephesians 5:20

During this season of Thanksgiving, we know that we should thank God for all that we have. And we know that we should thank God all through the year, not just at Thanksgiving. Sometimes it is hard to remember to do that. Here is a wonderful old hymn that we can pray anytime to help remind us to be thankful.

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills of this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

The author is Martin Rinkart (1636), translated into English by Catherine Winkworth.

<https://www.godsongs.net/2012/04/now-thank-we-all-our-god.html>

MENTAL HEALTH CORNER

TALKING TOGETHER SAVES LIVES: A PANEL DISCUSSION

Depression, anxiety, and suicide, especially for college-age youth, have increased over the past two years. Join us on Thursday, November 4th from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm virtually online for a discussion on how to help these young adults. There is no cost to attend but registration is needed in advance.

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/uca114>

TRAVELING WORSHIP



Our Traveling Worship group visited Jean Nichols on Sunday, October 3. Our group members on this visit were David Ward, Collin Johnson, Mike Quinn, and Sandy Quinn. We took Communion elements to Jean, and we shared prayer and scripture from the church bulletin. We visited with Jean, sharing church news and joys/concerns. Jean is troubled with a knee problem, but is trying to get back to church. It was a good time of caring and sharing.

Our next Traveling Worship date is in November 7th—after church on Communion Sunday. Please join in visiting when you are able.

Join us as we come together to destigmatize mental health issues.

North Carolina Central University Talk Space (NCCU) United Chinese Americans WAVES present:

Talking Together Saves Lives: A Panel Discussion

Thursday, Nov. 4 6:30-8pm EDT

1,100 American college students lose their lives to suicide on college campuses each year, and this past year during the pandemic has been difficult in regards to mental health for many. In 2020, 1 in 5 college/graduate students had suicidal thoughts. During this panel, community advocates and leaders, alongside students from NCCU, UNC, and Duke, will discuss suicide prevention and share their own stories about mental health. A short documentary film on the stories of college students will also be screened.

Featured Speakers

- Victor Armstrong, Deputy Secretary, Chief Equity Officer, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
- Yolanda Vardal, Chair of Department of Nursing, North Carolina Central University

Featured Panelists

- Alicia Hinnant, Peer Mentor, NCCU Talk Space
- Ray Palmer, President, UNC System Students of Color Association
- Gail Pruitt, Assistant, Undergraduate, Former Faculty Member, NCCU Department of Nursing
- Jennifer Tu, Medical Student, Duke University
- Sen Xu, Psychiatrist, Psychologist, Consultant, NCCU HHS

Host: Ashley Sherman, President, NCCU Student Union, NCCU Talk Space

Moderator: Jan 'Lily' Chen, Lecturer, NCCU Department of Nursing, Program Director, UCA HHS

Facilitated by NCCU Talk Space Peer Mentors: Ashley Branch, Hannah Ramos, Farrah Patel

Register: tinyurl.com/uca114

SUPPORT UMCOR'S COFFEE & CHOCOLATE PROJECT, FOR SALE IN THE PARLOR!

Fair trade 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.

- 12 oz Ground Coffee Bags, \$8
 - Mind Body Soul Regular or Decaf
- 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%)

DONATIONS NEEDED!

Collected in the Narthex.

- New twin comforters
- New full comforters
- New pillows
- Pine sol
- Dish soap
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels



ORANGE CONGREGATIONS IN MISSION

Thank you for keeping our cart in the Narthex full and the OCIM pantry overflowing!

Any monetary donations toward Meals On Wheels or OCIM operating expenses are also appreciated!

HILLSBOROUGH BAKERS NEEDED.

Northern Orange County meals are currently delivered once per week, every Monday morning. Bakers are asked to deliver individually packaged desserts to the Hillsborough Office, 113 W. Hill Avenue South on Monday mornings between 8:45-10AM. We currently use Signup.com to coordinate/schedule baking donations. If you are interested, please click this link: <https://signup.com/go/yiTTQxF>. Review the dates listed and choose the spot(s) you want. You do not need to create an account to do this.

Thank you so much for your continued support of MOWOCNC and your commitment to our recipients. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Heather at volunteers@mowocnc.org.



Dear Pleasant Green family,

Thank you so much for your generous donations to the North Carolina Central University Nursing Students' community project. The bed and back of our truck as well as the back of my car were completely full of your donations! The residents of McDougald Terrace loved what you sent and were so appreciative. The event was held in a small park next to the Terrace on a beautiful fall day. Thank you, again for helping their lives be a little brighter.

Gail Pruett

PleasantGreen

United Methodist Church

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

DUKE INTERN:

Emily Robbian
emily.robbian@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!

November, 17th Blood Drive at PGUMC



To sign up, contact the Church office at 919.383.5764 or pgumc@ncrrbiz.com or go to redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: Pleasant Green)

amazonsmile

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**