



Pleasant Green  
United Methodist Church

# ROOTS & BRANCHES

PleasantGreenUMC.org

November 2020

## Let's Go to Bethlehem!

*Virtually – of course. Because, it's still 2020.*

During Advent this year, the congregations of the Orange Cooperative Parish would like to go on a journey together, with Mary and Joseph -- to Bethlehem. From Hillsborough, NC to Bethlehem, Israel it is approximately 6,100 miles. We would like to travel those miles together. Whether you walk, bike, run or skip we hope you will go with us.

How will this work? As you go about your daily life, exercising as you normally do, track your miles. We have created an online “tracker” where you can enter those miles. By Epiphany, our goal is, as a Parish, to have exercised 6,100 miles together (but apart)—enough to get us to the Holy City for the birth of Christ.

Our goal is twofold: Winter is hard and we will still be in a pandemic. We hope that this will be motivation to get out and get moving (collectively)! We want to encourage a healthy lifestyle in all the ways we can. Secondly, we want to live into our vision to be a missional people by raising money to help one particular organization, The Compass Center for Women and Families (located in Chapel Hill) whose work is especially important in the midst of this pandemic.

We have chosen this organization because the COVID-19 pandemic has put a spotlight on numerous ongoing health crises, including housing and violence within the home. We recognize that this pandemic has brought it with it many other stresses for people's personal lives, and, as a faith community, it is our calling to stand and support the vulnerable. Take a minute to google these two organizations and learn more about the important work they do in our local communities.

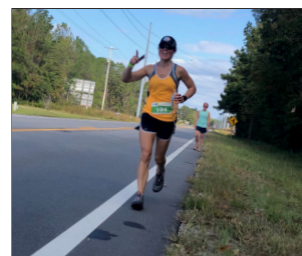
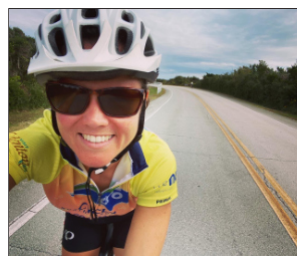
Our goal is to raise \$1/mile. You can raise this however you want - personally contribute or ask others to sponsor you. If you go 20 miles, we hope you will donate \$20 or have someone donate on your behalf. If you go 100, even better!

How to join the journey:

I will share a link by email, Facebook, and on our website. Simply click the link and follow the instructions to join the challenge! After you run, walk or skip, head on over to the link (Challenge Hound) and enter your mileage! The link is live and you can join anytime! The challenge itself will begin on the first Sunday of Advent (November 29). You can join the challenge anytime, but no new participants may join after December 5. I will also be sharing a separate link where we will collect donations, so keep your eyes and ears out for that too!

One of my favorite African proverbs is this: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” Bethlehem is a long ways away. So whether you can contribute 5 miles or 50, your miles (and dollars) will help! I believe that -together – we can reach this goal. I also believe, that, together, we can be a light and blessing to our neighbors this season.

Pastor Laura





## PGUMC Directory Update

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

Congratulations to  
**Laura & Charles**  
on their Engagement!

October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020 • Swansboro, NC



# Staying Connected.

## In This Issue

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## Changes during COVID-19

- Worship on Sundays at 10:30am – link sent out via email each Saturday and can be found on the church website
- Sunday worship is posted on Vimeo each week after worship
- DVD's of worship prepared weekly for shut-ins and others who are not plugged in electronically
- Weekly "Spiritual Care Package" via email each Sunday afternoon
- Several Sunday school classes are meeting via Zoom on Sundays – contact your Sunday school teacher for information!
- Wednesdays at 10:30am: a book group/discussion/Bible study via Zoom
- Handwritten letters, phone calls, and emails
- The Prayer Team is continuing to pray diligently for those on our prayer list and to “meet” monthly to update each other
- Weekly Zoom calls for High Schoolers and Middle Schoolers with Carsten
- Fall book group - “Being the Bridge” Part 3



Dear Pleasant Green Church Family,

October was Pastor Appreciation Month and I have felt warmly your love and appreciation. From the depths of my being, I give great thanks to be among you and with you -- especially this year. Thank you for the ways you have loved me and supported me. Thank you for the ways you show God's love in this world. You are a special church and I count it among my many blessings to be called your pastor.

Thank you.

-Laura

A note to Pleasant Green...

Thank you for the prayers of safety for our nephew Scott Carolan who was deployed to the Middle East this past year. Upon his return to the states he quarantined at Fort Hood for two weeks and is now at home with his family in Minnesota. We appreciate the prayers lifted on his behalf.

Jim and Gloria Perry

## PGUMC Financial Update

2020 Unified Budget	\$348,460.49
Y-T-D Total Income to Operating Fund	\$222,554.74
Y-T-D Operating Expenses	\$245,502.76
Y-T-D Operating Fund Balance	-\$22,948.02
2019 Operating Fund Balance Forward	\$17,640.33
2020 Current Actual Operating Fund Balance	-\$5,307.69
Current Building Mortgage Balance	\$246,872.96



On Tuesday, October 27th, Pastor Laura along with Susan Adams and Cindy Stubbs, both leaders on Church Council, attended a 4-hour Webinar designed to help churches organize and re-think their organizational structure in order to maximize missional effectiveness. About a year ago, PGUMC moved to a single-structure Church Council and began the process of leading more faithfully and efficiently. This was not only informative, but also inspiring and practical as we move into another year of ministry together.

This Month....

11/4 Be the Bridge: Part 3 @ 7pm

Via Zoom with Pastor Laura  
The Bridge to Restorative Reconciliation  
Engaging a social issue (race) through the lens of faith.

11/5 The Read & Seed Patch @ 6:30pm

Contact: Cindy - pmfcjs@aol.com  
We are rereading a book of our choice from childhood.  
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71811686102?pwd=eTJmK1VnTWlsaFM1YzZHYXE4ekNZUT09>  
Meeting ID: 718 1168 6102  
Passcode: 123456

11/13-15 Youth Pilgrimage

11/14 Eno Fire & Rescue Annual BBQ Fundraiser

11am - until they're sold out

11/15 Outdoor Worship Service

Details TBD

11/16 Church Council @ 7pm

11/18 Prayer Ministry @ 6:30pm

Contact: Gail - pruettg4mh@gmail.com  
Meets 3rd Wednesday of each month via Zoom.  
Everyone is welcome!

11/22 Advent kits pick-up @ 2-4pm

Pick up at Church for Advent at home.

11/22-Hanging of the Greens @ 5:30pm

Via Zoom with Pastor Laura  
How to arrange your Advent-at-Home Kits

Wednesdays - Philippians Bible Study @10:30am

Via Zoom with Keli Pennington

*PGUMC FALL STEW is yet another causality of COVID-19. With input from the Orange County Health Department and guidance from other public health experts, we will NOT make Stew in November 2020.*



**Zoom.** Middle schoolers - Mondays at 7pm  
**Zoom.** High schoolers - Tuesdays at 7pm  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85769219943>

**Driveway Visits.** Schedule yours with Carsten!  
<https://calendly.com/ocpyouth/driveway-visit?month=2020-08>

**Pilgrimage.** November 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> 2020.  
Outside, masked & socially-distanced!



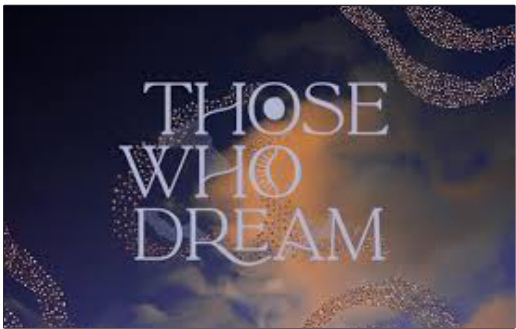
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>All Saints Sunday</b>  <b>Daylight Savings</b>  <i>Tessa Kankelfritz</i>	<b>2</b>  <i>Alden Conner Katie Wright Kevin Rittenhouse</i>	<b>3</b>  <i>Gavin Vukmer Will Weaver</i>	<b>4</b> <b>Philippians Bible Study 10:30am</b>  <b>Be the Bridge 7pm</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Read &amp; Seed Patch 6:30pm</b>  <i>Heather Ray</i>	<b>6</b>  <i>Caroline Paige Clark</i>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  <i>Kyle Meier</i>	<b>10</b> <b>FOOD FOR ALL</b>  <i>Anna Freeman</i>	<b>11</b> <b>Philippians Bible Study 10:30am</b>  <i>Veterans Day Tim Owens</i>	<b>12</b>  <i>Sarah Grace Alley</i>	<b>13</b> <b>Youth Pilgrimage</b>  <i>Perry Wright</i>	<b>14</b> <b>Youth Pilgrimage</b>  <b>Eno BBQ Fundraiser 11am</b>
<b>15</b> <b>Youth Pilgrimage</b> <b>Outside Worship Service</b> <i>Richard Ray Charlotte Overaker</i>	<b>16</b> <b>Church Council 7pm</b>	<b>17</b>  <i>Roger Bass</i>	<b>18</b> <b>Philippians Bible Study 10:30am</b>  <b>Prayer Ministry 6:30pm</b>	<b>19</b>  <i>Julie McCay Julia Cain Moore</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  <i>Cathy Marlowe Luke Wilson</i>
<b>22</b> <b>Advent kits pick-up 2-4pm</b>  <b>Hanging of the Greens 5:30pm</b>  <i>Will Tapley Ray</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Philippians Bible Study 10:30am</b>  <i>Connie Riley Rick Riley Theresa Stocking</i>	<b>26</b> <b>Gobble Gobble</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Advent Begins</b>  <i>Billy Walker turns 80!</i>	<b>30</b>  <i>Cassie Lipton Camilla Davis Charles Bowden</i>	<div>November</div>				



# Celebrating ADVENT *Apart Together*

We are so excited to begin our Advent journey alongside the creators of A Sanctified Art and our neighboring churches in Orange County as we explore the theme “Those Who Dream.”

“When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.”  
~opening lines of Psalm 126



What does it look like to live as those who dream? The prophets, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the Shepherds and Magi -- they were all dreamers. In Advent, we step into the mystery and awe of God’s dreams and pray that they shape our reality even now. This theme is for the dreamers in all of us -- those who dream of a deeper connection with God and those who dream of a better world. I hope you will join us this Advent - through a variety of different ways listed below as we seek and discover God’s dreams for our lives.

## Advent At-Home

Kits Prepared and Ready for Pick-Up on November 22nd from 2:00-4:00 at church. The kits will include Advent Wreaths, family devotionals, and more to help you and your families have a meaningful Advent at home! Questions? Contact Pastor Laura

## Preparing for Advent

A family-friendly virtual “hanging of the greens” via Zoom on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30pm. Hopefully, you will have picked up your Advent-At-Home Kits by then, and we will walk you through how to arrange your Advent Wreath, as well as share some fun things to prepare us for the season!

## Weekly Worship

Led by the Orange Cooperative Parish each week  
6pm on Saturday or 9am and 11am on Sunday mornings

## The Longest Night Worship Service

At Camp Chestnut Ridge -December 20<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm  
About the Service: There’s an Advent tradition within Western Christianity of inviting people to come together for the Longest Night, a night around the time of the winter solstice, when there are more hours of darkness than light. It’s a time to come together for prayers and laments, to mourn the losses and griefs of the year, to let the tears flow for the hurting places in our own lives, as well as for our country and our world. Known also as “Blue Christmas,”a Longest Night Gathering is a safe and sacred space to share anguish, to plead with God to remember us, to pray for justice and restoration, even to hope against hope, through our doubts and tears and fears, that “God will set things right all over the earth.” We have chosen to gather at Camp in order to have a very large area and gather safely and practice social-distancing.

## Daily Devotional

Prepared and written by local members from each of our churches

## Weekly Bible Study

Wednesday’s at 10:30 led Keli Pennington

**Journey to Bethlehem!** A 6,000 MILE CHALLENGE!  
See Laura’s front page article for details!

*from the Prayer Ministry...*

## “Now Thank We All Our God” – A PANDEMIC PERSPECTIVE

One Monday in October I listened to parts of a National Council of Churches online conference on the theme of “Breathing New Life into our Nation.” The first three speakers all had NC connections. The keynote speaker was James Forbes, former pastor of Riverside Church in New York City, who was born in Burgaw, NC and whose father was a pastor in Raleigh. The responders were Chanequa Walker-Barnes, one of the former student interns at PGUMC, now a professor at Mercer University in Atlanta and Jonathan Wilson Hartgrove, a pastor and writer who is the leader of an intentional community in Durham. The fact that I noted – and appreciated – their NC connections is because of my changed perspectives. Years ago we were living in Philadelphia when Dennis called me while on a trip in North Carolina and asked if I would be willing to move to North Carolina so he could accept an appealing job offer; my response was to tell him that wasn’t a very funny joke and the answer was NO.

Changing our perceptions based on our changing experiences is something we have all been learning during this pandemic. We have all had to establish priorities. We wear masks not because we like them or think they are attractive, but because we want to protect others. If eating out was a great pleasure in the past, we’ve learned to appreciate take-out or the fun of trying out new recipes at home.

The pandemic has forced us to realize we miss some things we took for granted before. Instead of passing the beautiful collection plates that Mike Martin made when the sanctuary was built, we give our tithes and offerings on-line or by mail or by slipping an envelope under the church office door. We realize now how visionary Billy Totten was when he avoided hugging or shaking hands during the passing of the peace in worship services. And we suspect that passing the peace will never be done in quite the same way even once it is safe to again gather in the sanctuary or chapel for worship services. And yet the congregation has continued to have worship every week and we have continued to support the church budget.

One change of perspective is to focus on what blessings we still enjoy rather than complaining about what is lost from our lives. Before the pandemic, there may have been times when we were so involved with a variety of distractions that we didn’t hear the quiet voice of God speaking to us. But during times of stress and anxiety, we are more prone to seek God’s presence.

The Lutheran pastor Martin Rinkart lived during the 30 Year War in Europe and a severe plague in the 1630s. There was a period when he was the only surviving pastor in his community, sometimes conducting as many as 50 funerals a day. In the year in which his own wife died, he performed more than 4000 funerals. And yet that same pastor wrote the words to the hymn “Now Thank We All Our God ” p. 102 in the United Methodist Hymnal. When we consider the difficult times in which he lived, we recognize that is only through his abiding faith that he would write:

*Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom this 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;  
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
And free us from all ills, in this world and the next.*



Pleasant Green UMW Online Auction was a Huge Success!

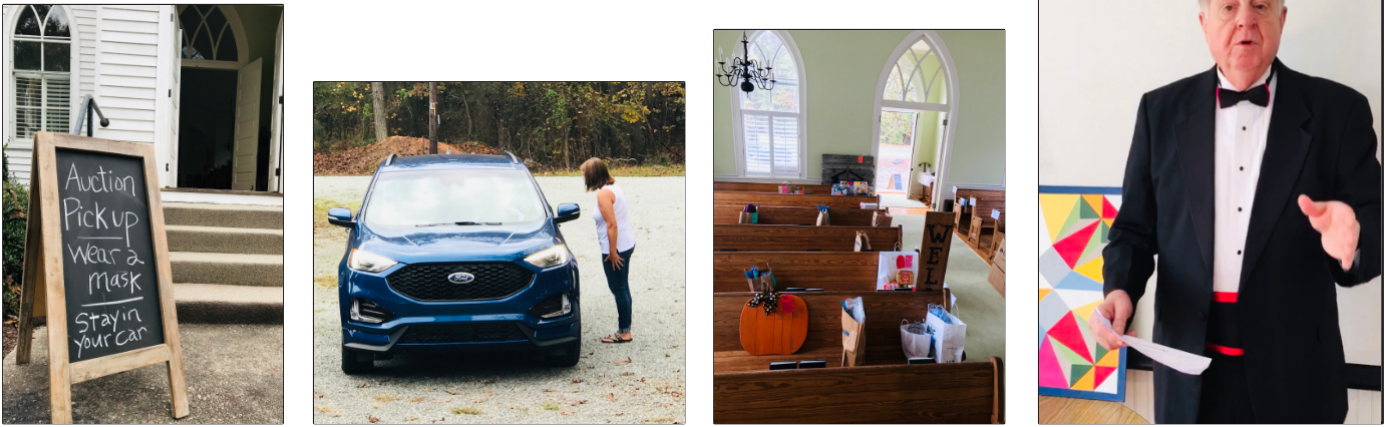
**We raised more than \$8,000  
— over 160% of our annual goal!**

The PGUMW Annual Auction is usually a time of fellowship, food and fun, with a live auctioneer motivating the crowd to open their hearts and pocketbooks to take home those items they really want! While we had to forgo the in-person traditions of this event that we love due to unprecedented circumstances, the response to the 100% online auction was unprecedented as well.

Thank you, PG community, for donating wonderful items/experiences and for your participation. It was a tight race for several items—bids were accepted until 11:00 p.m. Saturday night (10/24). Highest bidders “took home” mountain and river house stays, home decor, hand-made crafts, famous homemade cakes and chicken pot pies, vintage and collectable items, jewelry and more!

An enormous amount of gratitude goes to Julie McCay and the Dream Weavers Circle for their organization of the event this year and taking it online! Thank you to the Eleanor Walker Circle for direction and support. With the success of this year’s event, you’re likely to see a hybrid next year! We’ll look forward to gathering in 2021, and still being able to further our reach to those not able to make the main event.

*Thank you for supporting UMW missions!*

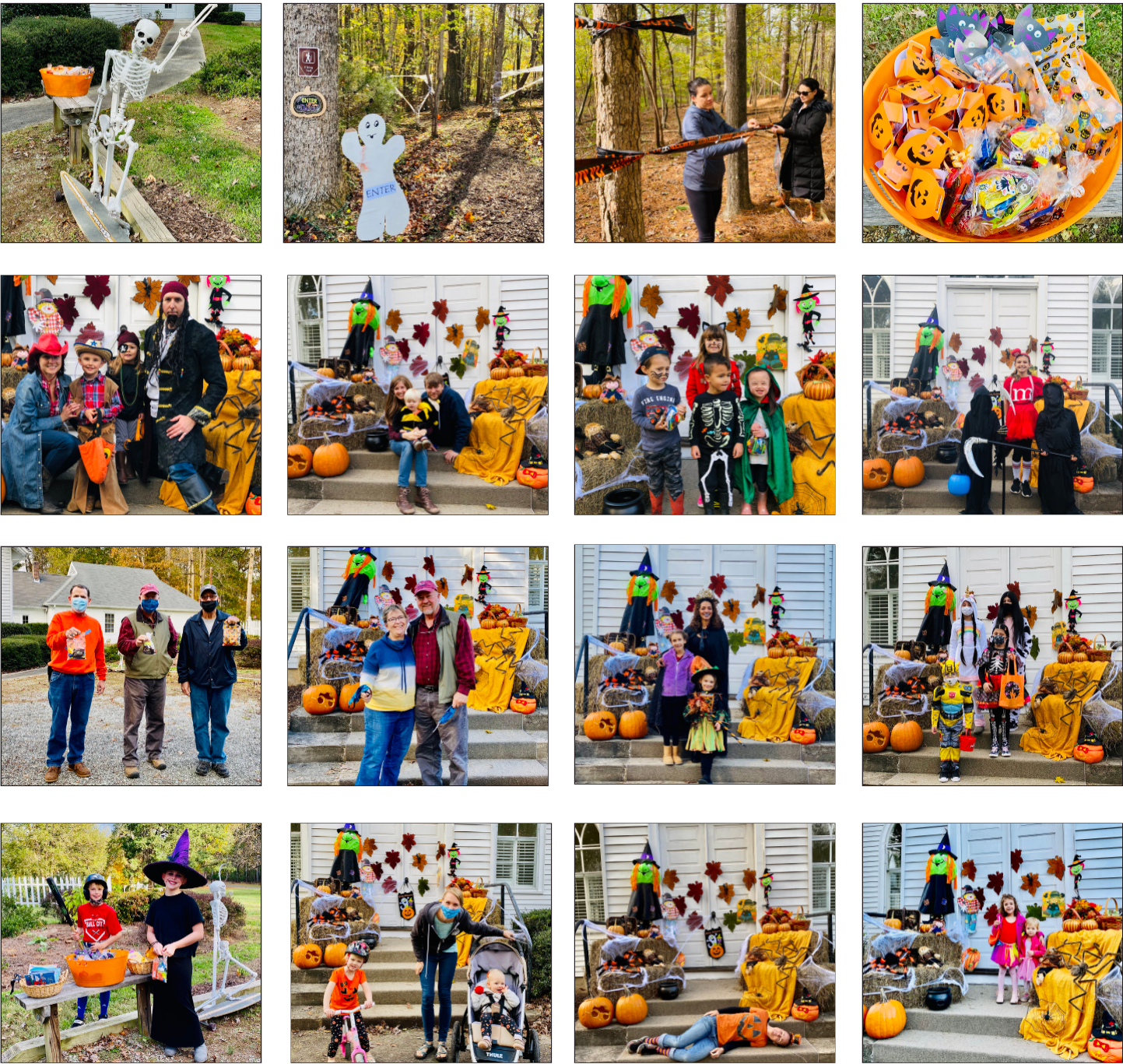


October  
Outdoor Evening  
Vespers Service



# Halloween

at Pleasant Green with COVID-19 precautions.





# Pleasant Green GROUNDS

**Do you have a favorite plant, bush or flower growing in your garden?**

**Or A special plant that has been passed down in your family?**

We would like donations of plants or bulbs that mean something to you to plant around the church property. Please consider potting up this plant or digging up the bulbs for donation.

Fall is a good time to plant, so we can take donations now or in the Spring - whenever you have the plant(s) ready.

Please contact Cindy Stubbs at [pmfcjs@aol.com](mailto:pmfcjs@aol.com) or Van McCay at [vmmcay@nc.rr.com](mailto:vmmcay@nc.rr.com) with donations or questions!

Community Landscaping  
by the Old Sanctuary

Nancy Maloney



Van McCay &  
Cindy Stubbs

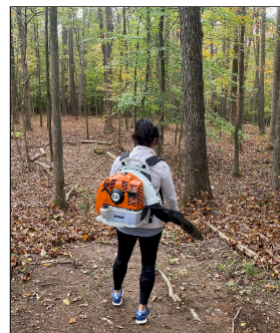


Al Edens & Kathy DuLaney

Getting the PG Trail ready for Halloween



Matt & Mindy Vukmer



Kelly Lee



## The Rose Garden

The rose garden at Pleasant Green is a great resource to bring beauty and a remembrance of our Church to the sick, shut-ins or your own home!

*Come cut your roses!*

- ~Bring a container of water
- ~Cut roses at a 45 degree angle just above a leaf on a stem that has five leaflets
- ~Place any dead roses or leaves in the bucket beside the fence door
- ~Pull a few weeds while you're there;)



Becky Crawford

# MISSIONS

Give. Donate. Help. Share. Volunteer. Pray.



**Habitat for Humanity. Help build strength, stability & selfreliance.**

Habitat for Humanity in Orange County remains hard at work constructing four houses on Odie St. in Hillsborough. Volunteers are needed! Please contact Jim Perry at [perryjames@twc.com](mailto:perryjames@twc.com).



James Perry & Mark Stocking  
installed vinyl siding on  
October 3rd.



**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! We have many items collected and ready to be given away!



**Orange Congregations in Missions**

Thank you for keeping our cart in the Narthex full! Please continue to donate to the food pantry for those who are food insecure in our community. Other items such as hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, and other cleaning supplies are needed! Volunteers at OCIM are welcome, and financial donations can be made via check or paypal at [www.ocimnc.org](http://www.ocimnc.org).



**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 including personal protective equipment that our volunteers will need to stay healthy.



**FMF Donations Needed!**

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Bath towels
- Small bottles of dish soap
- Tooth paste
- Brooms/Dust pans
- Clorox disinfectant wipes
- Bleach
- Low-sugar juice boxes
- Vitamin Water zero
- Gatorade zero
- Sugar-free water bottle packs
- New sheets/comforters/pillows (twin/full)

Dear Friends at Pleasant Green UMC,

Thank you for your continued support of providing essential household needs to families and children at FMF. We are so grateful for your contributions of these much needed donation items. We hope you all are staying safe! We look forward to the day we can be together again.

In partnership, Katy Lambert

Hi Everyone,

Thank you for supporting FMF for the Holiday Program. I received your check and added our check and sent it to FMF today Oct. 6th. Again thank you very much for your support. It is much appreciated.

Blessings, Nancy Maloney



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

[PleasantGreenUMC.org](http://PleasantGreenUMC.org)  
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(919) 383-5764

Pastor: Rev. Laura Thompson  
[lthompson@nccumc.org](mailto:lthompson@nccumc.org)  
(919) 383-2339

Youth Parish Coordinator: Carsten Bryant  
[carsten.bryant@duke.edu](mailto:carsten.bryant@duke.edu)



Pleasant Green's unique charity link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-1152936>

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](https://smile.amazon.com) and use your existing Amazon Prime account login.

### **DOWNLOAD THE PGUMC APP!**

**APP STORE:** Search "Pleasant Green UMC"

**SMARTPHONE:** Text "PleasantGreenapp" To: 77977

Then 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.



**American  
Red Cross**

### **Blood Drive at PGUMC**

Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> 10am-3pm  
Held in the Fellowship Hall. Contact the Church office at [pgumc@ncrrbiz.com](mailto:pgumc@ncrrbiz.com) / 919-383-5764 or [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) (sponser code: Pleasant Green)  
**Please give the gift of life!**

### **WAYS TO GIVE AT PLEASANT GREEN UMC**

**ONLINE:** [www.PleasantGreenUMC.org](http://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!

**Please Recycle!**

