



Pleasant Green
United Methodist Church

ROOTS & BRANCHES

PleasantGreenUMC.org

October 2020



*Thank you, Pastor Laura.
For showing us and
reminding us of God's love.*



Pastor Laura Thompson

Autumn as a Season of the Soul

I love the first signs of fall. You know what I'm talking about – that first time you feel a “crispness” in the air, or that bright yellow, golden leaf in the middle of a path, pumpkins starting to fill the store fronts and those squirrels burying nuts in my flower pots. I'm grateful to live in a place where seasons change. I'm even more grateful for times when the weather – and the seasons – seem to be in sync with my soul.

Ancient Celtic Christianity would often speak of the “seasons of the heart.” There are four seasons in our year (sometimes, in North Carolina, you can get all four seasons in the same day), but there are – without a doubt – seasons of the soul. Wintertime, when things are cold and dark and withdrawn. Moments when we deeply need sanctuary and warmth. Springtime, moments of new adventure – time filled with hope, possibility, and promise. Springtime gives way to summertime, full of lushness, color, balance, growth. That summertime growth yields to autumn, one of my personal favorite times of year. In earlier years, this time would have been marked with gathering corn and vegetables, chopping and stacking wood for the cold months, butchering hogs – quite joyful occasions, actually. Now, it is oftentimes marked by fall festivals, revivals, and church homecomings! Nonetheless, it is a harvest. The earth yields its fruitfulness and autumntime is always a great gathering time, a feast time.

This year won't look like other years. We have already missed celebrating Homecoming in September. No Brunswick Stew. No overnight fall youth trips. No UMW Auction in October (in-person, that is). And yet, autumn is still here.

Harvest time is still a possibility. Is it possible to embrace this season in such a way that there is still a great gathering? Still a feast to be had? Still a harvest to be yielded? Surely, our souls long for such a season.

What kind of things have you been gathering during this pandemic time? I know some of you have been gathering new recipes, others have been gathering lost moments and experiences with family around the dinner table or worship each Sunday in your living rooms. Some of you have been gathering more solitude than you ever imagined or more miles on your shoes. We are no longer in the first couple of weeks of the pandemic. Most of us have settled into rhythms and re-entered certain ways of being. Time is a mystery and it's hard to believe that this began in the spring, that summer has come and gone, and we are here embracing the gift of a new season. Is it possible for us to find ways to allow this experience to yield a harvest?

Likewise, are there things you haven't seen harvested that you want to be intentional about cultivating? Autumn has just arrived. We have the gift of a new season. As for me, I hope to gather more courage. Gather more wisdom. And gather more connectedness. What do you hope to gather?

May we embrace this autumntime of life.

May we feast on everything that is true and good in our world.

May all that we gather give us inner strength and quiet delight.

Pastor Laura

Staying Connected.

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WELCOME

Hello, Pleasant Green!
It's so good to be back!

For those whom I didn't get to know when I served as an intern during the summer of 2019, my name is Keli Pennington. I moved to Durham in the summer of 2018 from southern Illinois to begin my studies at Duke Divinity School, where I am now a third year student. I grew up in the United Methodist Church and am currently a candidate for ordination in the Free Methodist Church. When I'm not reading for school, I enjoy cooking, hiking, spending time with my husband, Willem, and our cat, Pippa, and practicing my new COVID hobby, embroidery. I am looking forward to being able to serve you and alongside of you during what is sure to be a memorable year. Since we won't see each other in the hallways on Sundays, please feel free to send me an email so we can catch up and get to know one another more (keli.pennington@duke.edu). Looking forward to reconnecting and loving the Lord together!

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” starting in September and meeting once a month

PGUMC Financial Update

2020 Unified Budget	\$348,460.49
Y-T-D Total Income to Operating Fund	\$199,330.82
Y-T-D Operating Expenses	\$222,932.45
Y-T-D Operating Fund Balance	-\$23,601.63
2019 Operating Fund Balance Forward	\$17,640.33
2020 Current Actual Operating Fund Balance	-\$5,961.30
Current Building Mortgage Balance	\$249,982.75



Church Council Meeting

September 13, 2020 @ 7:00pm via Zoom

Laura opened with sharing an image of the statue in the middle of Central Park – the first statue of women in Central Park celebrating 100 years of women's suffrage. The piece of art shows three women “leaning in” over a table. Hold this image in our hearts as we all lean in to this work together. “Membering” together. Working together. Susan B. Anthony loved to make history. Elizabeth Cady Stanton loved to write it. Takes all of us.

Charge Conference is October 11, 2020 at 1:00 via Zoom. November Meeting date will be announced soon. All are welcome.

Nominations/Church leadership: 2021 Leadership approved

As proposed at our last meeting (Aug 10, 2020), a motion was made to keep most of our current leaders in place on the Administrative Council with the exception of:

Susan Adams as SPRC Chair
Cindy Stubbs as “at-large” member

Discussions: Current Leaders agreed to stay on another year. Leadership did not change last year because Pastor Laura and others felt it was important for one group of people to live through an entire year and find a rhythm with new structure. This year, we are all surviving a pandemic and much of the Church business has been on hold for 6 months. It is extenuating circumstances.

Re-Cap of meetings are in the monthly newsletters. Meeting date/time/Zoom link are always announced ahead of time via E-mail; PG Notes and Pastor Laura's ‘Sunday Worship and the week ahead.’ ALL are welcome to attend! (The only closed meetings are for SPRC issues.) As we think about new leadership, an idea was proposed to invite others to “shadow” teams starting January or February– We will revisit this in the upcoming meetings and aim to do this first of the year. Please reach out if you are interested!

Reminder from Pastor Laura: “As we think about church leadership, my hope is to get people who are invested in the church – in other words, living into their covenant of prayers, presence, gifts and service. This is leadership.”

Finance: 2021 Budget approved

- Apportionments down \$3,000 this year.
- Staff support down \$11,000
- Giving at the end of August 2019 compared to giving at the end of August 2020 – only down \$3,200.
- Several new givers on Push Pay with 1/3 of giving coming in online
- Motion by SPRC to have a staff freeze and 0% increase across the board for 2021.
- Pastor's compensation approved.

Discussions: Online worship vs In person worship with COVID-19. Where people stand - Comfort level in returning - Overall sense of where we need to be as a church.

What we would do if we did regather? Is it worth the risk right now?

Several vocalized and the overall consensus seemed to be that everyone is very content with the online worship. Quality and communication is very good. If we did return: Yes, masks. Yes, social distancing. No singing. Not quite equipped to do outdoor worship with sound needs, etc. yet. – would require a group to plan and execute.

Trustees:

Update: Starting September 21 and continuing through October, Pleasant Green UMC will be a remote learning site for Orange County Schools. They will be using the entire downstairs so we ask that everyone please avoid that area if possible. We are happy to help provide learning space and guidance for children who need it. **Donations for bottled water are welcome!**

October

Calendar

10/1-The Read & Seed Patch

Thursday @ 6:30pm via Zoom
Discussing *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean

10/7-"Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation" Part 2

Wednesday @ 7pm via Zoom with Pastor Laura

10/12, 19, 26- Lighting the Way

Mondays @ 7pm via Zoom with Pastor Laura

10/16-Orange Youth Collective Movie Night

Drive-in style. Details TBA

10/21-Prayer Ministry

Wednesday @ 6:30pm via Zoom

10/11-PGUMC Charge Conference

Sunday @ 1:00pm via Zoom
The Bishop announced this year's meeting will be virtual via Zoom and done as individual churches with District Superintendent Mike Frese and Assistant DS Sarah Carter.

10/17-10/24-UMW Online Silent Auction

All week long @ 32auctions.com/PGUMC
Details on page 6

10/18-Outdoor Evening Vespers Service

Sunday Evening. Details TBA

10/25-PG Trail Work Day

Sunday, 2-5pm

10/31-Halloween at Pleasant Green

Saturday, 4-6pm @ Pleasant Green Church
Details on page 7

Sundays-Exodus

All Sundays in October @ 10:30am
via Zoom with Pastor Laura

Saturdays-The Witch's Hunted Barn

All Saturdays in October @ Firefly Farm
Details on page 7

Wednesdays-Bible Study

All Wednesdays in October @ 10:30am
via Zoom with Pastor Laura

***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.**

Birthdays

1
Wayne Leonard
Parker Glidden

2
John Bourlon
Cindy Stubbs

3
Cheryl Bennett
Nolan Johnson
Cindy Fox

4
Julie Totten
Brooks Nicholson

6
Jason Marbrey
Michele Metzger
Sharon Brockwell

8
Sybil Baker

9
Millie Nichols

10
James Hall

11
Jennifer Ball
Laura Bell Holmes
Gloria Perry

12
Larry Breweur
Van McCay

13
Elaine Flannery

14
Donald Dixon

17
Hannah Kankelfritz
Kelly Black

20
Auman Woody

21
Sharon Clark
Cyndi Brogden Duke
Philip Poe

22
Amy Barbee
Beau LaBarre
Tricia Walker Smith
Betsy Yarbrough

24
Sharon Hall Bradsher

25
Jeannie Montgomery

26
Alicja Link

27
Andrew Ward

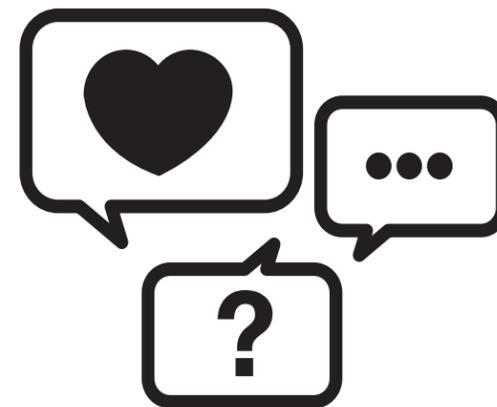
28
Brooke Riley
Mattocks

29
Gary Lipton

30
Grayson Smith

31
Carolyn Wilson
Flowers

Voices of Change



Be The Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation

~by Latasha Morrison

Oct. 7 @ 7 pm via Zoom

Part 2-The Bridge to Confession and Forgiveness

Engaging a social issue (race) through the lens of faith, will read the book and discuss each part over 3 monthly gatherings.

Exodus

Sundays in October @ 10:30 via Zoom

Continuing our 9-week Journey~Engaging and Preaching the book of the Exodus in depth for 9 weeks & encouraging personal reading between Sundays.

Lighting the Way

Oct. 12, 19, 26 @ 7 pm via Zoom

Seeking Wholeness in a Divided World. Formation and Soul-tending through small groups and reflection.

"You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven."

Jesus tells his disciples to live as a light, not covering the light but living so that others can see the good and praise the God who fills us with light and life.

And while we say that Christians have certain values that we are committed to, we so often fail to embody those values in everyday life. What are the Christ-centered values we say we believe in, and how do we live according to those values in our everyday lives?

Join Pastor Laura (Pleasant Green UMC) and Pastor Cameron (Hillsborough UMC) for a series of conversations this fall on living faithful, whole lives as disciples of Jesus Christ for the sake of the world.



Greatest of These is Always Love

~by Richard Cassidy

Get your copy! @ Lulu.Com

Pleasant Green UMW Online Silent Auction!

GOING LIVE!

Saturday, October 17th ~ Saturday, October 24th

WWW.32AUCTIONS.COM/PGUMC



Support! Please join us in raising funds for missions supported by UMW during this challenging time and help relieve any stress COVID-19 has caused. Sponsored by The Eleanor Walker Circle and The Dream Weavers Circle.

Donate! WE NEED MORE AUCTION ITEMS! Accepting Donations through October 9th. *What can you donate? What items can you secure as donations?* (Examples could be gift cards, vacation stays, handmade goods, home decor, baked goods, art, experiences, etc.)

For all donated items, please provide: Description ~ Pictures ~ Market value to Julie McCay - juliepmccay@gmail.com OR (919) 949-5831.

Donations need to be dropped off at Church in the Fellowship Hall prior to the auction going live on 10/17. For questions, help with photos or porch pickup, please contact Julie.

Spread the word! We are hoping to reach so many more people with the auction being online! With many fantastic donations, there is something for everyone and every budget!

Bid! Go to www.32Auctions.com/pgumc. Create an account so you can browse around to see what folks have donated. Bidding will not be allowed until the auction goes live on October 17th. Assistance will be available with bidding once the Auction goes live!

Pay & Pick up! If you're the lucky winner, you will receive an email from Julie to arrange payment (if using cash/check) and pick-up from Pleasant Green UMC.

Payment options:

Check/Cash: At pickup

32 Auctions website: Directions will be emailed

Online: www.pleasantgreenumc.org

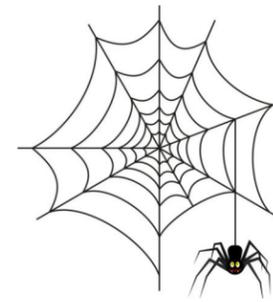
Smartphone: Text "PleasantGreen" To: 77977



Thank you for your support!
~UMW of Pleasant Green United Methodist Church

a sneak peak to pique your interest...

Mountain Getaways
Crafts and Drafts
One-Hour Discovery Sightseeing Flight
Handmade Quilts
Home Decor



A Socially-Distanced
Halloween at Pleasant Green
4-6pm on October 31st

Our 2020 Halloween celebration will take place on the church grounds from 4-6pm. Activities include: a costume parade, photo booth, and a spooky walk through the new walking trail!

Here's what we need from you to make this year's celebration a success:

- Donations of unopened, individually wrapped candy. A donation box is located in the church narthex. Please drop off donations by October 21st.
- Bring your pre-carved jack-o-lantern for others to admire and add to our spooky scene!
- Be in place to cheer on the costumed kids in the Halloween parade at 4:30pm.

Important notes about COVID-19:

- All adult attendees will be asked to wear a mask. Please follow signs for parking and check-in with the attendant who will check temperatures and handout masks (if needed) and hand sanitizer.
- Please maintain a 6' distance from others at all times. We ask that each family unit maintain a safe distance when walking the spooky trail and lining up for the parade.
- Grown-ups should chaperone all children to ensure they are following safe social-distance.
- In lieu of traditional trick-or-treating, candy donations will be pre-assembled into individual goody bags. Each child will receive a goody bag after the Halloween parade.

Meet Me In The Graveyard



Other Haunted Happenings in October...

The Witch's Haunted Barn
Open all Saturdays in October from 1-5pm
4911 Hunt Rd., Hillsborough, NC
(770)722-1107

A whimsical look at Halloween and fun for kids of all ages. The barn will be filled with a variety of spooks (pirates, ghosts, aliens, mad doctor, witches, vampires to name a few). Music and many details will delight all who enter the barn. After working your way through the barn, there will be pre-bagged candy for the children. Other fun activities open to victims who visit the farm are petting the miniature donkeys and horses, visiting the chickens, and walking the pasture trail to the sunflower field which is expected to bloom in October. A perfect way to spend a Fall afternoon!

To keep everyone safe in this time of COVID-19, the number of people in the barn will be limited. We encourage everyone to reserve their time slot by purchasing tickets to the event in our online store at <https://fire-fly-farm-nc.square.site/> at \$15/family. Tickets reflect the time you will enter the barn, and we invite victims to spend time outside that time slot visiting the rest of the farm. Holders of online tickets will be allowed to go through the barn again. For more details, please visit our website at <https://www.fireflyfarmnc.com/> or check us out on Facebook @farmfirefly. The witch has been waiting for this spooky occasion. Come and stay awhile-we are dying to see you!

from the Prayer Ministry...

Friends love all of the time, and kinsfolk are born for times of trouble.

-Proverbs 17:17 (CEB)

Friendship in the Time of Division

When people draw favor from the Lord, even their enemies are at peace with them.

-Proverbs 16:7 (CEB)

Yet the Human One came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunk, a friend of tax collectors and sinners. But wisdom is proved to be right by her works.'

-Matthew 11:19 (CEB)

During this time of COVID, some of us have had to endure long hours of solitude and being home bound. Hopefully, friends and family reached out to us or we reached out to them. During these interactions, we find that our friends hold the same values and beliefs that we do. There is often a similarity in how we approach the world and what we think is right. Family and friends are a source of comfort during times of trouble, just as the wisdom of Proverbs tells us.

But, what about the whole population of people who are different from us? Who hold different values, beliefs, practices, behaviors? What does the wisdom of Jesus tell us? He was a friend of tax collectors and sinners. He approached people different from himself; those who were shunned by ordinary, righteous citizens, as we perceive ourselves to be.

What message does Jesus' behavior have for us in these divided times? Reach out to the people who we shun; the people we do not think we will ever understand. Love them because God created them in love. Seek to understand their thoughts

and feelings. Ask questions that help you know more about their motivations. Then listen to their answers without judging or interrupting. Pray for guidance, love, patience, wisdom; then, listen for the answers. Draw on God's provisions to sustain you during this time of new friendship-making; because the Lord's love and compassion extends to those we think of as enemies, even as it extends to us. We may even find a surprising peace in our hearts because God is with us. Let us pray:

Dear Heavenly Father of Peace, Love, and Wisdom teach us what you want us to know during these troubled, divided times. We think we are right. We even think we are following your will for us. Help us to see where we are wrong, and where we are not loving others as you commanded us. Soften our hearts. Open our minds and souls to you. It is your will that needs to be done, not ours. Help us share your love and light in our own little communities, to begin to spread peace and understanding that will overcome all evil as you define it. *Amen.*

The Prayer Ministry meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm. The next meeting is Wednesday, October 21 at 6:30 pm via free conference call. Look for more information through PGUMC weekly news emails as we get closer to that date. You may also contact Gail at pruettg4mh@gmail.com. Please join us!



Donated to our congregation by the United Methodist Women. Available in the Narthex.



Congratulations!

Rev. Ali DeLeo

ordained at

The Baltimore Washington Annual Conference on September 12th.

REMOTE POSSIBILITIES

Pleasant Green UMC will continue to be a remote learning site for Orange County Schools!

We are happy to help provide learning space and guidance for children who need it. We are using the entire downstairs for two small groups of children. We ask that everyone please avoid that area if possible. The hours are from 7:45am-3:30pm and possibly after-school care as well. The school system will provide a staff person for every 10 kids, masks and cleaning supplies. School staff will ensure guidelines for social-distancing and disinfecting shared spaces are followed.

The United Methodist Women have provided some of the books from their reading program for supplementary reading materials for the children in this program. Donations of bottled water are welcome.



Pleasant Green UMC September Parking Lot Visit



Afterschoolers, Mya & Ta'nya, picking up school supplies donated through the UMW's "Christmas in July"



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

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

Movie Night Friday, October 16th -The first Orange Youth Collective Movie Night will be sorta-Drive-in style. Mark your calendars! More details coming soon.

Scavenger Hunt Joseph's Code of Many Colors scavenger hunt continues! (10/11: Cedar Grove, 10/18: Walnut Grove, 10/25: Chestnut Ridge) Here's how it works: Meet Sunday afternoons at at the locations listed above. Start at the front door to receive your first clue. There will be a total of 4 clues across the campus of each church. The clues will take you to a box that you can take home as well as a piece of Joseph's coat that you will acquire over the 6-weeks. "Come to church" for fun-filled, screen-free Sunday afternoons!



Pilgrimage November 13th-15th 2020 will be virtual!



Help build strength, stability & self reliance.

Habitat in Hillsborough remains hard at work for the most vulnerable people and communities in Orange County and needs volunteers. Please contact Jim Perry if you can help! Perryjames@twc.com.

HELP



Thank you for keeping our cart in the Narthex full! Please continue to donate to the Orange Congregations in Missions 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.

DONATE



Global Ministries | The United Methodist Church

Standing with Survivors of Fire, Wind and Rain.

For only the second time in history, the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season is so intense that the U.S. National Hurricane Center may resort to naming new storms using letters from the Greek alphabet. Millions on the Gulf coasts are deluged with wind, rain, and flooding. Millions more out West flee massive wildfires. Across the globe, 2020 has seen massive monsoon flooding in South and Central Asia and torrential rains and catastrophic flooding throughout the African continent.

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 protection equipment that our volunteers will need to stay healthy.

VOLUNTEER



Donations Needed!

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

~from FMF

Dear Friends of PGUMC,

On behalf of all of us at Families Moving Forward, I want to express my thanks for your contribution to families staying in shelter. We are grateful for our partnership with you and all the ways you support the families.

In community, Katy Lambert

SHARE

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!

GIVE

PLEASANT GREEN GROUNDS

SAVE the DATE

WALK, RUN, BIKE the PGUMC TRAIL!

Trail Work Day!

Sunday, October 25th 2-5pm

We invite you to help us continue to blaze the trail around our 18-acre property! Bring your rakes, leaf blowers, pruning shears, chainsaws and help clear the walking trail!



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 the roses at a 45 degree angle just above a leaf on a stem that has five leaflets. It is important to cut roses correctly, as new growth forms at the place of cutting.
- ~Place any dead roses or leaves in the bucket beside the fence door.
- ~Pull a few weeds while you're there;



PLEASANT GREEN SEPTEMBER BLOOD DRIVE

Thanks to everyone that donated and volunteered!





Pleasant Green United Methodist Church
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pgumc@ncrrbiz.com
(919) 383-2339

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

Youth Parish Coordinator: Carsten Bryant
carsten.bryant@duke.edu



amazonsmile

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 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.

Pleasant Green UMW Online Silent Auction!

Going live!
Saturday, October 17th - Saturday, October 24th
@ www.32uactions/PGUMC
Details Inside!

WAYS TO GIVE AT PLEASANT GREEN UMC

ONLINE: www.PleasantGreenUMC.org
SMARTPHONE: Text "PleasantGreen" To: 77977
ENVELOPE: Mail or slip under office door

We know and believe that part of being a follower of Christ is being generous with our money. We also recognize that the world is changing, the church is changing, and giving trends are changing with new generations. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Please Recycle!

