



Chapel Chatter

Come, Lord Jesus!

As we wait for Him to come, we celebrate His birth

It is Advent and we are preparing for the coming of Christ. It began on November 30th with the "Hanging of the Greens." This special 5th Sunday worship included carols and hymns to focus our attention on the One whose birth brings us peace, hope, joy, and love.

On Wednesday, December 2nd at Four Seasons Cafe and Gift Shop we are having a cookie exchange and finishing gift baskets for Coventry House Inn. Our special visitor is Monica Cash will receive the blankets for the Wounded Warrior group in Fayetteville.



Sunday, December 7th, the second Sunday in Advent our children and youth will be at Spring Valley UMC presenting Family Feud Christmas edition.

On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, the 14th, our choir will present

special Christmas music, the United Methodist Women will gather at 3:00 pm and then at 6:00 pm the children and youth will be offering their program for Plank Chapel UMC and our Christmas party will follow.

On Wednesday, December 17th, Senior Circle has their Christmas Feast and Christmas Bingo.

On the 4th Sunday of Advent our morning begins with pancakes prepared by the United Methodist Men. Come out at 8:00 am (PJ's allowed).

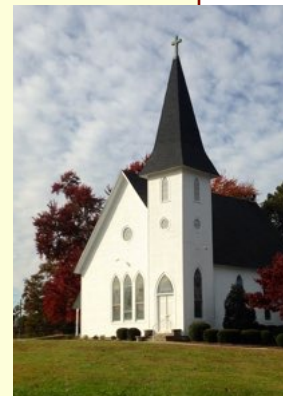
Tuesday, December 23rd we will be providing a meal to the Homeless Shelter in Henderson.

Christmas Eve worship will begin at 8:00 pm on Wednesday night. During worship we will welcome in new members through confirmation and baptism as we celebrate God with us, Emmanuel!

Plank Chapel United Methodist Church

To all who are lonely and need a friend, to all who are sick and seek Christ's healing power, to all who sin and need a Savior, this church opens wide its doors, and in the name of Christ our Savior, bids you welcome.

Join us for worship, at 8:30 am or 11:00 am, church school at 10:00 am.
UMM - 3rd
Sunday 8:00 am UMW - 3rd
Sunday 3:00 pm
See BASIC Youth for monthly schedule



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PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

“Glory to God in heaven and peace on earth...” The angels sang those words many years ago to the shepherds watching their flocks announcing that the Prince of Peace had been born. As the echo reverberates across the years, the sound is more of a whisper.

This year peace seems more like a dream than a promise. It is lost amidst the terror attacks, the violence in the streets, in protests, and in homes. There seems little hope for our world, yet...

God hears the cries of His people. We know that from the story of Israel and Egypt. God is faithful. In this preparation time for Christmas that we call Advent,

we are His children waiting for Him to come again. In the meantime, He asked us in the parables we heard through the month of November to be ready!



How can we be ready? We walk as he called us to walk, beside those who are in need. The needs are great. People need food, clothing, homes, jobs, but more than that, people need us to be in a relationship with them and show them love.

How can we be ready? We can stand against the forces of chaos and call for peace and justice. We can choose to be active in our communities and governments, being the voice of peace.

How can we be ready? We can offer hope to those who see only despair and grief. Fear, despair, grief are emotions that tend to isolate us from our friends and family. People who are afraid, who see no hope cave in upon themselves and often do not cry out to us. We can seek out those in pain and be the messengers of hope.

How can we be ready? We can live out of the joy of the Lord that dwells within us. We can hear God's voice telling us, “Fear not,” and let go of our fears as we celebrate the coming of The King with joy.

This Advent season may we be the messengers of love, peace, hope, and joy,
Pastor Carolyn

ADVENT HOME WORSHIP OPTIONS

BY MARYJANE PIERCE NORTON



Make an Advent wreath. The wreath, because it is a circle, symbolizes God's never-ending love. The wreath, because it is green, symbolizes life. An Advent wreath contains four candles representing the four Sundays leading to Christmas. Many people place a white candle in the center of the wreath to symbolize Jesus.

Make an Advent prayer chain. Use construction paper cut into twenty-four strips.

Write a prayer concern on each strip. Use tape to tape the first strip into a circle. Take the second strip and insert it into the first strip before taping it into a circle. Continue until you have a chain. On Monday, December 1, open your first strip and pray together as a family for what is on the strip.

Make a family-blessing jar. Place an empty jar on your dining table. Each day during Advent, state one blessing for which you are thankful. Write the blessing on a slip of paper and put it in the jar. On Christmas Day, pour out the blessings. Read together and give thanks to God for the blessings you have enjoyed during Advent.

For each week of Advent, focus on one of the people or groups of people in the story of the birth of Jesus. Tell one another the stories from the Bible about:

Week one (Hope): the Prophets

Week two (Love): Mary

Week three (Joy): Joseph

Week four (Peace): Shepherds

Or use the scriptures in the bulletins as your study focus during Advent and during your family devotion time talk about how those scriptures touch on that week's theme.

Turn these 25 Missional Opportunities offered by Josh Reeves into an Advent Calendar for the coming year by picking the one or ones that work for you and selecting dates throughout the year to be missional in your neighborhood. It is through our relationships with our neighbors that communities can be changed! We are not powerless but empowered by the Holy Spirit and through that power lives are transformed.

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1. Cook an extra casserole and give it to a neighbor
 2. Buy an extra dozen donuts and give them to a neighbor
 3. Start a compost pile and allow neighbors to dump their compost
 4. Host a coffee and dessert night
 5. Organize and host a ladies craft night.
 6. Organize an effort for neighbors to help take care of elderly in neighborhood
 7. Become a regular at your neighborhood park/YMCA/Boys and Girls Club.
 8. If you have a skill, let neighbors know that you can use it to help them for free
 9. Host a movie night and discussion afterwards
 10. Start a walking/running group in the neighborhood
 11. Start hosting a play date weekly for other stay at home parents
 12. Organize a carpool for your neighborhood to help save gas
 13. Collect good will store items and offer to take them to goodwill
 14. Have a front yard ice cream party in the summer
 15. Start a sewing group
 16. Go Christmas caroling in your neighborhood (invite neighbors in on it)
 17. Throw a July 4th block party
 18. Start a neighborhood Facebook/Twitter/Google + group
 19. Ask longtime residents to help you learn about the neighborhood
 20. Offer to babysit neighbors kids so they can have a date night
 21. Find out your neighbors birthdays and take them a card and baked goods on it
 22. Setup a meet your neighbors night with a driveway/front yard buffet
 23. Ask your neighborhood schools if they need help with anything
 24. Host a regular Saturday morning breakfast potluck
 25. Host a sports game watching party

Missional Giving: Change Buckets: Use your spare change to change the world.
 December we are giving to Red Bird Missionary Conference!

UMCMarket.org is another way to give. If you shop online, shop through the market and retailers will give to your designated choice.

BASIC YOUTH



Acolytes
 7th - Matthew Denton
 14th - Jasper Denton
 21st - Makayla Beckham
 28th - CT "Chuck" Thompson

Youth Council meets on the 1st Sunday of the month at 4:00 pm. December's meeting is at Spring Valley UMC. We will discuss 2015 schedule of events and how fundraisers will support those events.

BASIC UMYF normally meets on 1st and 3rd Sundays from 4:30 - 5:30 pm. 1st Sundays at Plank Chapel UMC, 3rd Sundays at Spring Valley UMC. **In the month of December we will be at Spring Valley on the 7th and participating in the Christmas program on the 14th.** Our regular schedule returns on January 4th.

Mission opportunity in December is to help serve meals at the homeless shelter - December 23rd. The plan is to serve ham, sweet potatoes, cornbread, greens and sweet tea. Please let Susan Sears or Pastor Carolyn know if you wish to serve or make some Christmas cookies for dessert.

Conference Event Highlight: Global Vision. Global Vision is a six day long trip to New York City and Washington D.C. that aims to open the eyes of the youth to what goes on beyond their back door and the part they can play in changing it for the better. This year's topic is Peace Keeping at Home and Abroad. We will look at exactly what it means to be a peacemaker and why we are called to do that. We will attend seminars on the topic of peacemaking. Departing from Louisburg by bus to Washington DC for a seminar at the Methodist building on Capital Hill. From there, traveling to New York where we will attend two seminars and explore Time Square, Top of the Rock, and see a Broadway show. On the return trip we will stop in Philadelphia and attend a worship service at Historic St. George United Methodist Church.

Conference Youth Events Schedule for 2015

Global Vision - "Peacekeeping at Home and Abroad" March 10-15 (Grades 10-12) \$550 Deadline: February 17th


Kalediscope - "Not Ashamed" April 17-19 at Camp DonLee (Middle School Only) \$95 Deadline: April 3rd

Breakaway - "Fearlessly Faithful" June 14-20 at Louisburg College \$225

Appalachian Trail Hike - "Endurance" July 6-11 \$150 Deadline: June 22nd

ACS - "God's Declassified Life Survival Guide" July 13-18 at Methodist University (High School) \$250 Deadline: June 29th

Pilgrimage - "Have no Fear for God is Alive: November 13-15 at Crown Coliseum in Fayetteville \$25-\$30



Christmas Edition
 December 14th
 6:00 pm
 Join us for the fun!
 Biblical vs Fictional families!



**Heritage District
 February 14th
 North Carolina
 Wesleyan College**

Fundraising Goal: \$800

IN HIS SERVICE

December Ushers

Thomas Beckham, Mac Wilson,
Todd Wilson, Ben Brown

**December Altar
Guild**

Faye Woodlief



Flowers

7th - Frances Roberts

Poinsettias

14th - Poinsettias

21st - Poinsettias

28th - Jacque Jones

Lay Readers

7th - Donald Rose McGhee: *Isaiah 40:1-11*

14th - Pat Edwards: *Psalms 126*

21st - Sally Coghill: *Luke 1:46b-55*

28th - Leo Wesley Roy: *Isaiah 61:10-62:3*



Join the choir...
**You'll Be Glad
You Did!**

Greeters

7th - DJ Pegram

14th - Jasper Pegram

21st - Jackie Brown

28th - Natalie Gonzalez

Nursery Workers

7th - Judy Wilson & Laurie Miller

14th - Kim & Laci Oettinger

21st - Roxie Kearney & Lizzie Driver

28th - Frances Roberts & Arianna Fuller Bell

Outreach Team

7th - Joe Weaver and Henry Finch

14th - Mac Wilson and Richard Coghill

21st - Debra and Bruce Newman

28th - Karin Driver and Carolyn Roy

Community in Prayer

For... Lelia Brigham, Gwen Ritchey, Rev. Bruce Cayton, Marjorie Roy, Sarah Cruz, Frances Fuller, Molly Ann Hundley, Geneva Hawley, Stephen Bowers, Fred Beckham, Skeeter Pearce, James Rowland, Charles Parsons Smith, Gerald Woodlief, Jane Owen

For...those grieving,

For...those facing medical procedures this month,

For...those without food, jobs and shelter,

For...our leaders, our teachers, our volunteers,

For...our aging and shut ins

For...Our military, families, and veterans

For...peace in our nation

For...healing and reconciliation,

For...the lost and afraid,

For...Henderson, Vance County

For...Our children and youth

For...Plank Chapel

For...all in harms way

For...peace in the world



The UMM would like to say THANK YOU to all who helped make the BBQ a success. Cups are still available at \$7.00 each.

Sunday
Worship Opportunities
8:30 am
11:00 am

DECEMBER



Church
School
10:00 am
Sundays

	1	2 UMC #Giving Tuesday	3 10:00 am Four Seasons Cafe and Gift Shop 5:30 pm Faith and Fitness 6:30 pm Choir practice	4	5	6
7 4:00 pm Youth Council at Spring Valley 6:00 pm Christmas Program at Spring Valley 7:00 pm Faith and Fitness	8	9	10 5:30 pm Faith and Fitness 6:30 pm Choir practice	11 1:30 pm Keeping Holy Time Bible Study	12	13
14 3:00 pm UMW 6:00 pm Christmas Program	15	16	17 10:00 am Senior Circle 5:30 pm Faith and Fitness 6:30 pm Choir practice	18 1:30 pm Keeping Holy Time Bible Study	19	20
21 No early worship 8:00 am UMM's Pancake Breakfast 7:00 pm Faith and Fitness	22	23 6:30 pm Homeless Shelter Meal	24 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	25 <i>Celebrating the Birth of Christ</i>	26	27
28 7:00 pm Faith and Fitness	29	30	31  Watch Night Service 7:00 pm	Happy New Year! Open House at the Parsonage 3 pm - 5 pm 		