

# CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors!

## Methodist Men

Meet on the third Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m. for fellowship, breakfast, and seek opportunities for mission work in the community.

## Methodist Women

Meet on the third Sunday of the month at 3:00 p.m. The meetings include a program and missional planning for the months ahead. Zeb Vance Elementary School is one of their mission fields.

## Senior Circle

Meets on the third Wednesday of the month. The meetings include a program and a light lunch. Any community member over 50 years of age is welcome at Senior Circle.

## BASIC UMYF

Meet weekly at 4:00 p.m. and location changes each month. BASIC stands for Brothers And Sisters In Christ and youth from Rehoboth UMC and Plank Chapel UMC gather to grow in discipleship.



## Lent Begins...on Valentine's Day

It is an unusual matching of days. Some will be out buying Valentines and others will be seeking sanctuaries and worship leaving not with packages but with ash crosses on their foreheads. Consider with me that it may be the perfect marrying of days.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. We are called to enter a period of 40 days to fast and remember the gift of love God gave us through Jesus Christ. The readings for Ash Wednesday begin with the prophet Joel. He calls the people to return to the Lord for the day of the Lord is coming. He calls them to repent their ways. In the second chapter of Joel he challenges the priests and the ministers to weep and cry out to God, *"Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"* (Joel 2:17 b,c)

His words are quite a contrast to the candied hearts that say "Be Mine" or are they? Isn't that what the Lord desires that we "BE HIS?" The world would not have to wonder where God is



## Methodist Home for Children Sunday

At Methodist Home for Children, we believe that all children deserve a safe, loving home where they can thrive and live to their full God-given potential.

On **Methodist Home for Children Sunday, February 11**, you can make a difference.

This is the one day a year when congregations in the NC Conference of the United Methodist Church take up a special collection for the children and families served by MHC. Last year MHC helped nearly 1,600 children and families thanks in large part to the generosity of United Methodist congregations.

We need your help to continue changing lives and inspiring hope.

because they would see God in each of us and in the world that is transformed by God's unconditional love if we put God's love first in all our words, actions, thoughts, and choices.

Our Ash Wednesday service this year may look a little different than previous years. It is often the blacks and grays of ash. This year it will have splashes of red and white that help us to remember it is love that held Jesus to the cross, not the nails.

Valentine's Day is filled with chocolate in the shape of a heart or a heart shaped box filled with chocolate, roses or other flowers, both red and white, candy hearts and cards of all shapes and sizes. Some may even have special dinners and proposals. Others parties. There will be continued stories in emails and on social media about Saint Valentine. But what if you chose to fast chocolate? Sugar? Can you get a pastor's dispensation for Ash Wednesday? Can your fast start the next day?

The challenge of a holy fast is that it requires us to consider the sacrifice of Christ for each of us when we are tempted to eat or do the very thing we have given up for Lent. The purpose of fasting is to bring us closer to the one who gave up everything for us. Fasting is not often associated with love but it is love that calls us to fast and love that sustains us in our fast.

Loving relationships are hard. They take work. They take mutual sacrifice. Love asks us to think of the other first. Love takes us out of ourselves and our needs and wants so that the other knows how fearfully and wonderfully made they are. What better witness to the world of God's presence than a family that loves one another and works through the hard places of repentance and forgiveness to come out stronger together. Broken families cannot do this alone, only through the power of the Holy Spirit and the willingness to be changed by love can God bring about that transformation. When we submit to God's love, sometimes we have to give up things, give up ways, or even give up harmful relationships so that we can blossom as the child of God we were created to be. Our transformation will impact all our relationships. The world will see God's power in the world through our life.

Why take a fast seriously because it is a training ground, a holy time, a preparation, and an opportunity for God to work within us. It is a way to show our love. If our fast does not require a

meaningful sacrifice, what have we said about our commitment to God? Consider when we take time to show the ones we love on earth how cherished they are to us. We use special days, like Valentine's Day to surprise them with gifts, food, flowers, or a time set apart at their favorite place. What if this Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day we consider how God's love is in each gift, each flower, each moment, each bite of food. Give the gift of prayer and time set apart for the ones you love. Take these forty days and commit to praying for those you love. Make a list and sacrifice time. Sit with that list and God and pray specifically for each person. Add to the list those you find it hard to love.

God's love is best witnessed and expressed through our love for one another. This Valentine's Day remember love will change the world. It begins with you and me choosing to love unconditionally. This Valentine's Day consider coming to the Ash Wednesday Worship Service at 7:30 p.m. decked out in your Valentine's Day finery to remember the one who loved you before you were formed in your mother's womb and sacrificed all for you and for the world.

May we be Christ's love ambassadors through this Holy Lent!

Praying with you,

Pastor Carolyn

*"Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people." Joel 2:15-16a*

## The United Methodist

Women are collecting Box Tops for Zeb Vance - Collection Box in the entrance to the sanctuary

Each label is \$.10.

Ten cents adds up fast!



## Feasting before we Fast

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner is February 13.** We will have breakfast items as well as pancakes, coffee, tea and other drinks. Dinner begins at 5:30 and runs through 7:00 p.m. We will also provide a pancake feast for the men at the Homeless Shelter that night. We are taking donations for our benevolence fund to assist families when needs arise.

**Kerr Lake Ministries Chicken and Dumplings Fundraising Dinner is February 9.** This ministry serves the children of Vance County with a summer day camp. Camp is free for the children. The cost of putting it on each year is covered through fundraisers and gifts from various individual supporters and churches. Details will be shared in our bulletins, social media, and email updates. Plank Chapel UMC is the host site. These volunteers work tirelessly to bring Christ's love and His story to the children. Come out and enjoy a great meal and good fellowship for camp that transforms lives, even the lives of the volunteers.

**Food Pantry Sundays** in February are: February 4 and February 18. Bring nonperishable food items for Cokesbury's food pantry. All other weeks ACTS could also use your food donations. Both ACTS and Cokesbury participate in Backpack Buddies, so consider as you shop how you might support that ministry with small easy open items for snacks.

## District Laity Training

Sun, February 11, 3pm – 5pm

Louisburg United Methodist Church,  
402 N Main St, Louisburg, NC 27549

Areas of training include:

PPRCs (Randy Innes)

Finance (TBD)

Trustees (Christine Dodson)

Community Engagement (Susan Harrison,  
Julia Alliger, David Joyner)

COSROW Listening Session (Hannah  
McManus)

Youth Ministries - Mental Health (Lynn  
Bundy, Vicki Lawrence, Stephen Bazan)

## Formational Opportunities



### *Church School*

Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. classes are held in the Education wing of the Fellowship Hall. Currently we have teachers for elementary and middle school children waiting for their classrooms to fill. Our

adults have seasonal themes in their Adult Bible Studies. The winter theme is: Faith in Action.

Our church school is open to all who seek to grow in faith and if a particular subject is of interest to a small group, we can create a class on that subject.

### *Lenten Six Week Studies*

Five Means of Grace by Elaine Heath will be offered on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. during Lent beginning February 18. Sign up sheets will be in the Fellowship Hall during the month of January and books will be available on Ash Wednesday, February 14.

He Chose the Nails by Max Lucado will be a 5 week study on Monday nights beginning February 19. This study will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. Books are available, let Pastor Carolyn know if you wish to order one.

### *Keeping Holy Time Bible Study*

On Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. we meet to explore the scriptures and share in the needs of the community. Our only text is the Bible and the world. Each week, new facets of our faith are explored. It is never too late to study the Bible and studying together, we grow! Join us!

### *SHIFT Small Group Missional Study*

February 11 SHIFT will meet at 5:30 p.m. after the Laity training in Louisburg. We will consider taking up the Wesley Challenge - 21 Days and 21 Questions.

A note from our Treasurer about missional giving. Every dollar we give either locally or through the United Methodist Church is factored into our apportioned giving for the next year. Consider when you give to give through Plank Chapel, designating those funds to the missional giving or charity of your choice.

### Winter Weather Advisory

Winter weather can be unpredictable and challenging. If conditions call for us to cancel our Sunday worship schedule, we will get word out through Facebook, email, and the phone tree. Pastor Carolyn calls Faye Woodlief who begins making calls. If you feel unsafe traveling that Sunday, please stay home. If you are wondering, please call 252-438-6080 and ask.



## BASIC UMYF

The Wesley Challenge continues through February. Week One we looked at our relationship with God... how did the first week go? Where were you challenged? Did you take up the challenge?

February's meetings will be at Plank Chapel. February 4 is our Souper Bowl fundraiser - bring soup, bring beverages, bring crackers, bread, and desserts. We will be serving right after worship! Come early and help set up.

February 10 we leave for "Rise Against Hunger" at NC Wesleyan at 8:30 a.m. Permission slips will be available on the 4th (or sooner). We stop in Nashville for a breakfast sandwich/biscuit so bring some funds.

No afternoon meetings on February 4 or 11.

February 18 we will resume our 4:00 p.m. meeting

Steak Dinner and Cake Auction scheduled for March 17!

#### 2017-2018 Conference Youth Events

**Global Vision:** March 6-11, 2018 Cost \$555, Washington DC & NYC - High School grades 10-12

**Kaleidoscope:** April 13-15, 2018 Cost \$100, Don Lee Center, Arapahoe - Middle School only

**Appalachian Trail Hike:** June 18-24, 2018 Cost \$200

**Breakaway:** June 25-30, 2018 Cost \$255, NC



**Sunday**

**February 4**

**After Worship**

**"Rise Against Hunger"**

**Fundraiser**

**Goal: \$500**

**Flowers**

- 4 - Debra Newman
- 11 - Communion
- 18 - Kim Oettinger
- 25 - Kay Thompson

**Altar Guild**

Judy Wilson and Laurie Miller

**Ushers & Greeters**

**Ushers:** Henry Finch, Todd Wilson, Scott Ritchey, DJ Pegram

**Greeter:** Henry Finch

**Acolytes**

- 4 - Matthew Denton
- 11 - Austyn Abbott
- 18 - Patrick Medlin
- 25 - Hannah Pegram

**Lay Readers**

- 4 - Lorraine Abbott  
Isaiah 40:21-31
- 11 - Sally Coghill  
2 Kings 2:1-12
- 18 - Tim Smith  
1 Peter 3:18-22
- 25 - Gwen Ritchey  
Romans 4:13-25

**Nursery Workers**

- 4 - Kim and Laci Oettinger
- 11 - Lora Young and Midge Smith
- 18 - Joyce Edwards and Laci Oettinger
- 25 - Roxie Kearney and Heather Medlin

Wesleyan College, Rocky Mount

**ACS:** July 23-28, 2018 Cost \$255, Methodist University, Fayetteville - High School only

**Pilgrimage:** November 9-11, 2018, Crown Coliseum, Fayetteville

If interested in any of these events - ask Pastor Carolyn or go to <https://nccumc.org/youth/> to find out more information. Please keep in mind that there is YSF (Youth Service Fund) scholarship money available: **2018 Funding Assistance**

**Other Opportunities for Youth Involvement**

**Duke Youth Academy** provides opportunity for a class through worship, study, play, and service with Duke Divinity School faculty.

**Leader-in-Training** at Camp Don Lee offers a four-week intensive leadership development program for older youth.

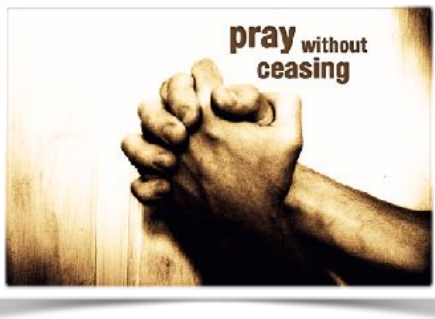
**NC Wesleyan College Youth Theological Institute** is a transformational experience that provides time, place and tools to discern God's calling upon your life.

**Pfeiffer Youth Theological Institute a/k/a YeTI** is a two week summer experience for rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors who want to lead, who want to serve, who want to learn more about God's call on their lives.

**Fellowship Opportunities**

Wednesdays are days of fellowship for our senior community. On the first Wednesday of the month, the Gathering Place is open from 10 am - 12 pm. We talk, play games, and seek opportunities to serve the community. The third Wednesday is Senior Circle Day - 10 am - 12 pm - we have a program and a light lunch - join us and share in the fellowship!





# Commission on a Way Forward - District Forums

February 1, 2018 - 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Wake Forest UMC, 905 S. Main Street, Wake Forest

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace of to you as we celebrate the birth of the Christ and the beginning of this new year.

We invite you along with Lay Leaders and Lay Members to Annual Conference to a district forum where we will explore together the work of The Commission on the Way Forward. The work of this Commission is to offer good possibilities for the future of our church in regard to human sexuality and unity. There is a deep need for clear, accurate communication and conversation with one another. The purpose of the meeting will be:

1 - To clarify the process of the Commission to this point and to consider models the Commission has shared.

2 - To listen to each other as we discern how God is calling us to respond in love and faithfulness as we move forward together.

3 - To prepare pastors, lay leaders, and lay members of Annual Conference to share accurate information and lead local church conversations so that everyone is well informed.

Our discussions and work will also be summarized and shared with The Commission in response to their request for continued input from across the church.

Each district will have its own session. Members of The North Carolina Conference's delegation will share in the leadership. The meetings will be 90 minutes long and will include worship, sharing of information, and table and plenary conversation.

With gratitude for the light of Christ guiding us,

Bishop Hope Morgan Ward

## Community Prayers

- For... Rose Tart, Jackie Brown, Kim Yates, Joe Weaver, Ruth Hailey, Hattie Ranes, Tilly Hughes, Dave Driver, Kay House, Skeeter Pearce, Jane Owen, Faye Young, Brandi Dickerson, Alice Finch, David Driver
- For...healing and reconciliation
- For...those facing medical procedures
- For...those grieving
- For...those without food, jobs, shelter
- For...the lost and afraid
- For...Plank Chapel
- For ...God's church
- For...Our local cities and counties
- For...Our military, families, and veterans
- For...all in harms way
- For...peace in our nation
- For...peace in the world

# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Early Worship</li> <li>10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> <li>4:00 PM BASIC Youth</li> </ul>	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Finance Committee</li> </ul>	30	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 PM Faith and Fitness</li> <li>6:30 PM Choir Practice</li> </ul>	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> <li>6:30 PM The way forward</li> </ul>	2 Groundhog Day	3
4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Early Worship</li> <li>10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> <li>12:00 PM Souper Bowl Sunday</li> <li>3:00 PM Church Council</li> </ul>	5	6	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM The Gathering Place</li> <li>5:30 PM Faith and Fitness</li> <li>6:30 PM Choir Practice</li> </ul>	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> </ul>	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:00 PM KLM Fundraising Dinner</li> </ul>	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM District youth event</li> </ul>
11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Early Worship</li> <li>10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> <li>2:00 PM District Training</li> <li>5:30 PM Shift Study Group</li> </ul>	12	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 PM Pancake Dinner</li> <li>6:40 PM Shelter Meal</li> </ul>	14 Valentine's Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:00 PM Faith and Fitness</li> <li>6:00 PM Choir Practice</li> <li>7:30 PM Ash Wednesday</li> </ul>	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> </ul>	16	17
18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM UMM</li> <li>8:30 AM Early Worship</li> <li>10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> <li>3:00 PM UMW</li> <li>4:00 PM BASIC Youth</li> </ul>	19 Presidents' Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Trustees Meeting</li> </ul>	20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Senior Circle</li> <li>5:30 PM Faith and Fitness</li> <li>6:30 PM Choir Practice</li> </ul>	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> </ul>	23	24
25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Early Worship</li> <li>10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> <li>4:00 PM BASIC Youth</li> </ul>	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30 PM KLM Meeting</li> </ul>	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00 PM CPOH Dinner</li> </ul>	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 PM Faith and Fitness</li> <li>6:30 PM Choir Practice</li> </ul>	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> </ul>	2	3

**Change Bucket for Change Lifeline**

**February 4**  
**Souper Bowl Luncheon after worship**  
**3:00 p.m. Church Council**