

CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors!



The temperatures are dropping and the air has the crispness of a ripe apple. This autumn we have new adventures to take as our celebrations and traditions are falling away as the leaves fall from the trees.

I captured this picture of the church one fall afternoon walking Abby. The sun hit the stained glass windows and turned them to gold. The tree blazed a brilliant red against the dark gray shingles of the roof. What I experienced was the grace of God in the reflection of the sun from underneath the curtain of the tree. The moment was so breathtaking I stopped whatever monolog

was going on in my head. I was brought into the present moment by the beauty of the building within its natural setting. Each year I would try to recapture that moment. I have never quite had the same reds or the same angle of the sun. Each attempt reminding me that the present moment has its own gift to offer. How often do we try to replicate instead of participate? What in the present moment do we lose?

Ecclesiastes chapter 3 verses 1-8 speak of seasons as the writer reflects on the rhythm of life: *“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace..”*

Each of us may find ourselves in different places this season, some mourning, some dancing, some crying, some laughing, some are silent, and some are speaking. One of the gifts of empty schedules is time to reflect on where we are and where we want to be. Time provides space for conversations with friends and family. Consider this season a time to get to know God more. Participate in the new adventure waiting for you in the next moment. Simplify celebrations. Fast from news, from social media accounts if you have one or two or three or four. God is a God of hope. He will be faithful to complete the good work begun in each of us and in all of creation. Let our expectations of the future fall with each leaf so that God can share with us His vision.

May our autumn adventures bring us to a place where we, as the Body of Christ stripped of many of our traditions and celebrations see the future God is preparing for us. My prayer is that we become like the image I captured, the church reflecting out the love of God to a world in desperate need of love and hope.

Praying with you,

Pastor Carolyn

Charge Conference - October 3 - 11:00 a.m.

This is a virtual Charge Conference with our new District Superintendent, Ismael Ruiz-Millan. The link will be sent out to all who join by Zoom and those who wish to attend Charge Conference in person can come to the Fellowship Hall - if you do so please arrive around 10:45 a.m.

From our Finance

Chairperson: Mac Wilson

Your continued support of the ministries of Plank Chapel United Methodist Church are greatly appreciated. Thank you for what you have done and as you are able may continue to do. You are more than welcome to drop your offering at the house or mail it to Plank Chapel, c/o Financial Secretary, Mrs. Judy Wilson, 3969 Bobbitt Road, Kittrell, NC 27544.



We are a Vance County School Hotspot - students access through SchoolBusInternet6718. They should be directed to mybusinternet.com to log in with a password. The default password is access6718. Please let families in our area know this resource is available.



Keeping Holy Time Bible Study

October 8, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.

Pavilion



Virtual Plank Chapel

Worship without COVID-19 danger

Live audio during the 11:00 service is on 107.3 FM in our parking lot
Video of the 11:00 Sunday service is live on Facebook

Go online to: [facebook.com/plankchapelUMC](https://www.facebook.com/plankchapelUMC) about 10:55

Our website: <http://www.plankchapel.org> is one of the easiest ways to connect. If you are still having trouble contact Scott Ritchey or Pastor Carolyn for assistance.

Kryasha's Korner

In the process of raising my six children I've been able to log many hours both telling and listening to stories. Everyday events and lessons suddenly become magically transformed into a storied adventure, transcending all reality while simultaneously encouraging hope, compassion and empathy. Stories are nothing new. Humans have communicated since the beginning of time through storytelling. Embedding them with context, origin, values, emotions, lessons, and identity.

As Christians, it is essential that we orient ourselves within God's story. The book, we call the Bible is filled with stories, verbally told and re-told generation after generation. The very origins of scripture began in community and was cultivated in community. This means that

our story, the Christian story was never intended to be experienced alone in isolation. Have you ever tried to tell a story to yourself? No way! When a story is told or heard, a connection is generated between the teller and the listener. A participation in community is born in this moment! And isn't this the entire point of what it means to be a Christian? To be in loving community with God and with others? It is in the telling and re-telling scripture that we see the very way that God enters and fully participates in humanity.

A desire to nurture community in a deep relational manner is why I seek out people's stories. My favorite thing is to ask someone to tell me their story or perhaps the story of their community. As they hospitably allow me to journey alongside them in their story, I am able to get a glimpse of their humanity. It becomes increasingly hard to dislike someone when they've opened their story book and invited you into it.

I often wonder how we are going to articulate and invite others to participation in the Kingdom of God? I've seen the damage of exploiting forced and coercive methods upon people. I propose we take a page from generations past and consider doing this through stories. I hope we allow stories to become our connection point with one another. Many of us are lonely during this pandemic. Reach out! Invite a neighbor, friend or stranger to tell you their story.



Join Us From ANY WHERE

Plank Chapel Walk to De-feet Dementia

Your

November 7-14, 2020
DementiaNC.org/PlankChapel2020

This fall's Walks to De-feet Dementia will be moving to anywhere and everywhere YOU are! Although we will not have an in-person gathering this year, our new Move to De-feet Dementia series will unite us all across the state to engage together and help families of people living with dementia access CARE – Comfort, Assistance, Resources & Education. contributions through MOVE will go towards Plank Chapel's goal of \$3,000.00



It is nice to be back in Sunday School when Tim can teach. We have plenty of room to safely distance in the Fellowship Hall. It is good to be with actual people.

I will continue to do a short summary of the Sunday School lesson each week.

Thanks to Rev. Carolyn for proofreading and sending it out to you. I hope you are enjoying my take on the lesson.

We don't know when things will be back to normal or what normal will look like.

*Hoping to see you in church soon,
Donald Rose*

The Fall Study is on our "Encounter" The writer of the student book lessons is Chuck Aaron; the teacher book writer is David Mosser. **The Fall books are in the Fellowship Hall on the Red Table.**

Remember Who You Are: The lessons in this unit call us to consider who we are as children of God and followers of Christ. At the heart of who we are lies the important concept of covenant.

The covenant that God made with Israel is a defining theological affirmation of the Old Testament. The covenant that God made with the church through Christ's blood is a defining theological affirmation of the New Testament. These lessons help us look more closely at those critical covenants and how they inform our thoughts, actions, and relationships.

Spiritual Practice -

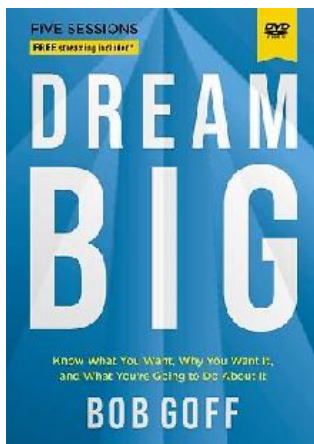
Confession

In This Place: The daily readings in this unit call us to think more deeply and specifically about worship by looking at places where, in the Scriptures, worship takes place. We will look at ad hoc altars, synagogues, the church, and worship at the throne of God. In each case, we will be challenged to evaluate our worship and broaden our understanding of where and how worship can happen.

Spiritual Practice -Worship

Reach out to Donald Rose if you want to attend on Sunday mornings and do not know if class will be held - home phone - 252-438-8645 or email: mcgheej@vance.net

Dream Big - A Five Week Study



In this five-session video study, bestselling author Bob Goff dares to ask the questions: What would you do if opinion, reason, or probability were no objects? What do you deeply desire to do even if it scares you to the marrow of your bones? What were you meant to do even if no other person thinks you should? He shares stories from the Bible that show how God called certain individuals to follow him—regardless of their lack of "qualifications"—and how those people changed the world when they dared to follow God's dreams for their lives. In the same way, God is calling us to step into the version of our lives that he intended for us before others told us it was impossible and once again dream big.

Fall Events - COVID-19 Modified

All Souls Night - October 31 - we will still light up the cemetery - please consider bringing additional lights - LOOK for additional information on this night in upcoming emails - bulletin inserts

All Saints Sunday - November 1 - Honoring those who died in 2020 - worship will highlight our beloved saints with songs and stories

UMM BBQ - Taking this year off

Pilgrimage - Going virtual - ask Pastor Carolyn for details

Thanksgiving Offering - November 22 - Drop off your fresh produce/baked goods/cans and nonperishables on Saturday - Sunday's altar offering will go to ACTS and Cokesbury Food Banks as well as distribute to those in our community in need

Worship News


- ◆ **Worship Committee** to meet **October 4, 2020** at 3:00 p.m. in the Pavilion (weather permitting)
- ◆ **Awakenings** continues to worship at 8:00 a.m. in the Pavilion (except for 3rd Sunday of the month)
- ◆ **11:00 a.m. Worship** - Facebook Live and in person (masks are required in and out of the sanctuary)
- ◆ **October 4 is World Communion Sunday** - Growing up in the Democratic Republic of Congo was not easy for Clarice Ndaya Kadima. She recalls being admitted to Africa University, but she could not register because she lacked the funds to pay the tuition. "My father is a retired pastor within the West Congo Annual Conference, and my mother is unemployed," Kadima said. "I saw other students registering for classes, and I felt like giving up. Bishop Mande Muyombo (resident bishop of the North Katanga Annual Conference) told me about the World Communion Sunday scholarship. I used to hear people talk about miracles, but today I can testify of the miracles in my life because the World Communion Sunday scholarship covers my tuition, accommodation and immigration fees."

Outward Witness

The Men's Shelter opens November 1. We will be serving meals the 4th Tuesday of every month while open. If you would like to participate in meal preparation, contact Susan Sears.

On **September 30 at 6:30 p.m.** we will meet to discuss how to use our Wellness Grant - bring ideas.

In September we distributed food boxes, arts and craft supplies to the school district, and provided Cokesbury Food Pantry with additional food boxes.



Memory Walk 2020/2021

The Memory Walk Team met and rescheduled our walk for April 17, 2021. The site on Dementia Alliance is still active. To date we have raised \$80.00 towards our \$3,000.00 goal.

We will still walk ... we still will remember.
Begin now to form your team.

<https://www.classy.org/event/2020-plank-chapel-umc-church-walk/e272731>

Community Prayers

For...Ricky Gleason, Kelcie Hardee, Frances Woodlief, Jackie Brown, Indy, Faye Moss, Alice and Ted Finch, Patrick Medlin, Martha Rowland, Lysa Mackey, Thomas Fowler, Frank and Susan Babicz, Judy Hanson, Charlotte Lalas, Tilly Hughes, Evie Odom, James Deans, David Driver, Ruth Hailey, Freddie McGhee, Faye Young

- 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 state
- For... Medical Staff, Truck Drivers, Store workers
- For... Small Business owners, Big Business owners
- For... those whose jobs are in jeopardy or lost
- For... Our military, families, and veterans
- For... all in harms way
- For... Our nation
- For... God's world



**Cokesbury Food
Pantry Sundays
October 4 and 18
Nonperishable Goods**

Light the Night with Love

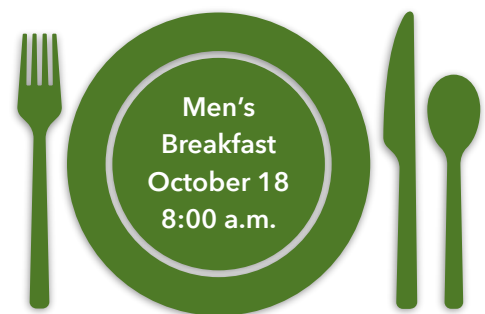
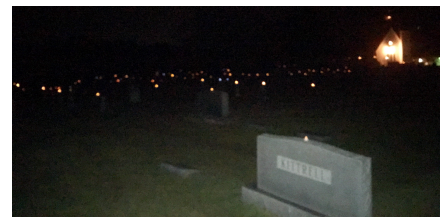
October 31st

**Plank Chapel UMC
Cemetery**

5:30 p.m.

Bring tea lights (battery operated) and we will put a light on each of the graves to remember the light each was to the world.

We will gather in the pavilion for prayer and stories until sunset and then return to the cemetery to offer final blessings.



Join us under the Pavilion. Breakfast biscuits will be provided. It is a "bring your own morning beverage." Contact Thomas Beckham if you plan on attending. (Bad weather - we will meet indoors)

Calendar of Events for October

October 3 - 11:00 a.m. - Charge Conference - Fellowship Hall and Zoom

October 4 - World Communion Sunday - Food Pantry

8:00 a.m. - Awakenings - Pavilion

10:00 a.m. - Church School - Fellowship Hall (subject to teacher availability) videoed

11:00 a.m. - Worship

3:00 p.m. - Worship Committee - Pavilion (weather permitting)

7:00 p.m. - Bob Goff Study - Youth Room and Zoom

October 8 - 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - Keeping Holy Time Bible Study - Pavilion

October 11

8:00 a.m. - Awakenings - Pavilion

10:00 a.m. - Church School - Fellowship Hall (subject to teacher availability) videoed

11:00 a.m. - Worship

7:00 p.m. - Bob Goff Study - Youth Room and Zoom

October 15 - 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - Keeping Holy Time Bible Study - Pavilion

October 18 - Children's Sabbath/Laity Sunday - Food Pantry

8:00 a.m. - United Methodist Men - Pavilion

10:00 a.m. - Church School - Fellowship Hall (subject to teacher availability) videoed

11:00 a.m. - Worship

7:00 p.m. - Bob Goff Study - Youth Room and Zoom

October 22 - 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - Keeping Holy Time Bible Study - Pavilion

October 25 - Reformation Sunday

8:00 a.m. - Awakenings - Pavilion

10:00 a.m. - Church School - Fellowship Hall (subject to teacher availability) videoed

11:00 a.m. - Worship

7:00 p.m. - Bob Goff Study - Youth Room and Zoom

October 29 - 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - Keeping Holy Time Bible Study - Pavilion

October 31 - 5:30 p.m. - All Souls Night - Light the Night with Love (need battery operated tea lights)

Coming in November - All Saints Worship

MOVE to DeFeet Dementia Virtual Walk - November 7-14