

CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors!

The Wesley Prayer Challenge: 21 days to a closer walk with Christ

“I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.”

On December 11 we will begin the Wesley 21 Days of Prayer Challenge based on John Wesley's Covenant Prayer. The study's author is Chris Folmsbee. He states that, *“The Wesley Covenant Prayer has been used in Methodist services around the world on the first Sunday of the year since John Wesley introduced it in 1755. Wesley expected that people would pray this prayer as a way of remembering, renewing, and surrendering themselves in complete trust to God. When we pray it, we are to remember what living like Jesus looks like and what loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind and love our neighbor as ourselves requires of us.”*

It is my prayer that we all embark of this journey. We begin on December 11 because it is exactly 21 days prior to the new year. Each week I will send an email with the daily scriptures, prayers, and challenge for daily life. Consider joining this challenge. For those without email access, I will also print out the weekly readings. 2020 has thrown us many wild cards but God has remained with us through it all.

It is Advent and we are waiting in peace, in hope, in love, and in joy for the coming of our Lord. Let us also wait in prayer.

Praying With You,

Pastor Carolyn

John Wesley's 3 Simple Rules - the first is to do no harm. With that rule in mind and your health and well being until further notice all worship or meetings will be held virtually or outside. One simple way to show love for our neighbor is to wear a mask, wait a safe distance, and wash your hands.
We will get through this!

Krysha's Korner

When I was a child, I wanted Christmas to last forever. As soon as Thanksgiving was over, we would prepare for this beautiful season, adorning the house with greens and tinsel and lights! The four glorious weeks leading up to Christmas were the best time of my life. Every day, for hours, I would lay underneath the decorated Christmas tree, gazing up at all the lights and decorations. Laying with half of my body hidden within the evergreen, I dreamt about all things Christmas, hoping against hope that the magic of this season, that that Christmas wonder feeling could last all year long.

When I got older and started attending a United Methodist Church, I was introduced to a new to me Advent/Christmas tradition, called the hanging of the greens. While this tradition doesn't extend Christmas all year long, it does mark the season with rhythms that lengthen Christmas beyond the singular day focus. My favorite hanging of the green's memory was several years ago. The church incorporated decorating the sanctuary throughout the entire worship service while a narrator guided the congregation through the whole process.

I loved that all were involved in the work of this service. I loved the symbolic meaning of the evergreens, a sign of the eternal coming of Christ into our midst, each year anew, our God-with-us, who dwells among us as Word made flesh. But you know, I think my absolute favorite thing about the hanging of the greens is that each and every person gets to participate in evergreen-ness of this season, this symbol of life and growth and renewal. A reminder love that flourishes in the midst of the death, and a hope that this love will flood beyond the Christmas season and overflow every aspect of our lives.



The season of Christmas is a miraculous one, Mary saying yes, the Angels and Shepherds, God-in-the-flesh, it is one of the few times in my life where I truly believe that anything is possible. So may the joyous wonder of this season overflow into our hearts and lives until all things are made new!

Traditions Old and New

This Advent season we will experience the absence of some of our old traditions and the addition of a few new ones.

Christmas Cards - The mailbox will not be in the back of the church this year.

Christmas Caroling - On December 13 we will have a caroling caravan - singers will drive their own cars and masks worn as we sing on the front or back porch. The caravan will meet at 3 pm in the parking lot of Plank Chapel

Prayer Cross - A Ribbon - A Prayer - A Cross - From December 6 through January 3rd the Easter Cross will stand in front of the church. Ribbons will be attached for you to take off, write your prayer and then return the ribbon to the cross. Permanent markers will be on site. You may write your own prayers for the cross at home and come and place them on the cross (remember this is outside so use permanent markers). Invite friends, family to use this time of prayer. These prayers will be read on December 21 and

31 during our worship times at the cross. On Epiphany Sunday, January 3 - we will bring these prayers to the altar as our offering.

21 Days of Prayer - Beginning December 11 we will enter into the Wesley Prayer Challenge - 21 days of prayer. There will be weekly prayer emails and a Facebook group that can offer daily reflections. Sunday, December 6 there will be a zoom meeting to introduce the study. Contact Pastor Carolyn if you would like to be on the Zoom call or in the Facebook group.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Hope everyone had a thankful Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for. As we look forward to the holidays may we continue to be careful about where we go and who we are around. We can worship God anywhere. He is everywhere and we should look for His wonderful works and the worship of the coming of the King. We will not meet in person for the month of December but I will continue to do the Sunday School Thoughts each Sunday. If you have any suggestions please let me know. My phone number is 252-438-8645 or text me at 252-432-2666. Have a Blessed, safe and healthy holiday.
Donald Rose

Outward Witness

The next Men's Shelter meal is December 22nd. If you would like to participate in meal preparation, contact Susan Sears at (252) 213-0150 or email at cj7review@gmail.com

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.

Thank You Plank Chapel

From Scott Ritchey: I want to thank all the people of Plank Chapel for their wonderful support after Gwen's sudden death. You have been wonderful, providing tangible support, like meals, and spiritual support, including her memorable memorial service. I may have been born a Yankee but Bobbitt is my home.

Scott Ritchey

From Kay and James Deans: Words cannot express how much we appreciate all of your thoughts and prayers. But especially the gifts of food. Just knowing that you think of us and care enough to share with us is such a special gift. There is a special place in heaven for those who care for others. Thank you,

James and Kay Deans

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>

ADVENT CALENDAR

Light a candle and read John 8:12	Invite someone over for dinner	Collect cans to give to a local food pantry	Pray for families in your city who don't have a home	Make a birthday card for Jesus
Write down 5 things you are thankful for	Pray for kids around the world who don't have clean water or food to eat	Watch a Christmas movie with your family	Sing Silent Night	Read Luke 2:10
Read Luke 2:13-15	Sit by someone new at school or church	Read Isaiah 9:6	Put up Christmas decorations and sing Joy to the World	Collect coins in a donation jar
Call someone in your family and tell them you love them	Read Matthew 2:7-11	Choose 3 of your toys to donate	Make a Christmas card for someone in your neighborhood	Read Luke 1:26-32
Read Luke 2:16-20	Sing O Holy Night	Write a thank you note to a teacher or coach	Read Isaiah 7:14	Make Christmas cookies for your mailman



adventconspiracy.org

A fun alternative to the traditional Advent Calendar!

These activities will help you *worship fully, spend less, give more, and love all!* To play, choose any activity on the board and mark it off once completed. See how many you can complete before Christmas!

Community Prayers

For...Richard Beers, Ricky Gleason, Kelcie Hardee, Faye Woodlief, 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 Lasas, 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, First Responders
- 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

Special Worship Events

December 21

7:00 p.m. Longest Night
A time of worship for people who find Christmas is hard (weather permitting - in person will be outside)
worship will be Facebook Live

December 24

8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Sharing the birth story (Gospel of Luke), candles and Silent Night (weather permitting - in person will be outside)
worship will be Facebook Live

December 31

7:00 p.m. Watch Night
A time of worship to give to God our hopes for 2021 and let go of what does not need to follow us into 2021 (weather permitting - in person will be outside)
worship will be Facebook Live



Feeding the Community

**Cokesbury Food
Pantry Sundays
November 29 and
December 13
Nonperishable Goods**



Calendar

December
Change Bucket

UMCOR
US Disaster
Response
#901670

of Events for Advent and Christmas

Worship With Us Virtually As You Are Able
When We Return to in Person Worship, Masks Will Be Required

November 29 - 1st Sunday in Advent - Peace (Food Pantry)

9:00 A.M. - Awakenings - Zoom

11:00 A.M. - Worship Facebook Live Only

December 6 - 2nd Sunday in Advent - Hope

9:00 A.M. - Awakenings - Zoom

11:00 A.M. - Worship Facebook Live Only

4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. - The Wesley Prayer Challenge Introduction (Zoom)

December 13 - 3rd Sunday in Advent - Love (Food Pantry)

8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. - Awakenings - Pavilion

11:00 A.M. - Worship - Facebook Live

3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. - Caroling Caravan

4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. - The Wesley Prayer Challenge (Zoom)

December 20 - 4th Sunday in Advent - Joy

8:00 A.M. - United Methodist Men - Pavilion

11:00 A.M. - Worship - Facebook Live

4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. - The Wesley Prayer Challenge (Zoom)

December 21

7:00 P.M. - Longest Night - Outside (Weather Permitting) and Facebook Live

December 22 - Men's Shelter Meal

December 24 - Christmas Eve

8:00 P.M. - Christmas Eve Candlelight - Outside (Weather Permitting) and Facebook Live
Scripture, Silent Night, Candle Light

December 27

8:00 A.M. - Awakenings - Pavilion

11:00 A.M. - Worship - Facebook Live

December 31

7:00 P.M. - Watch Night - Outside (Weather Permitting) and Facebook Live

