

CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors!

Finance/Church Council

January 5 - Meetings begin at 3:00 p.m. with Finance Committee and as the business concludes and Finance Adjourns, Church Council will Convene.

District Training

January 12 at Louisburg UMC from 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. This annual leadership training is for those stepping into or want to know more about particular leadership roles

Rise Against Hunger

January 20 - Food packaging begins at 10:00 a.m. - Our goal is 10 volunteers and to raise \$500.00 minimum for this event. It is not too late to sign up or contribute. Canned goods for ACTS will also be collected.

UMW Worship

January 26 at 11:00 a.m. our United Methodist Women will lead worship, proclaim the Gospel, and show their gratitude and support of family and friends. Special music to be sung by our singing United Methodist Women

2020 - Perfected Vision

I was ten when I got my first set of glasses. I remember walking out of the office and seeing the trees and realized I could see the patterns the individual leaves made and how each one was shaped. Until I went there, I didn't know I couldn't see things clearly. I thought that all people saw the way I did. I assumed blackboards were blurry and signs only came into focus when you got close enough to them.



In the office I had to sit while the eye doctor would try one lens and then another. I would sometimes get confused if A or B was better or 2 or 1 was sharper. Each turn and twist of the lens brought my vision to a perfected 20/20. I learned I was near sighted and that I had astigmatism in each eye. I even learned one was a bit lazy. Over the years I have gone for check ups and occasionally my prescription is changed. Then I turned forty and found I now needed bifocals. Aging has had one visual benefit, my nearsighted vision has improved.

Our spiritual vision is not perfect on its own. Sometimes we may think it is because it is the only spiritual lens through which we see the world. Without committing to time in study, in an accountability group, in worship, and in prayer we will not know what corrections we need to maintain perfected spiritual vision. Our spiritual vision over time can become nearsighted and we cannot see God's kingdom outside of our community. Our peripheral vision may become narrow and we may forget there are needs beyond what we can see. As we age and have become seasoned Christians our spiritual sight may need sharpening to see how the Holy Spirit is working within our worshipping community or even within ourselves.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, speaks about being perfected in love in this life. He believed it is possible only if we work at it. He developed what he called three general rules: do no harm, do all the good you can, and by attending on the

ordinances of God (currently known as “staying in love with God”). He lists under each rule practices that help us continually correct our spiritual vision.

You may wonder what John Wesley considered the ordinances of God. He listed public worship, ministry of the word (what we might call Bible Studies or Church School), the Supper of the Lord (John Wesley maintained this sacrament should be practiced weekly), family and private prayer, searching the scriptures (daily devotional reading), and fasting or abstinence. He believed our daily habits and practices were part of the Holy Spirit’s corrective lens through which we could be perfected in love. Are there daily habits that you may need to add to your spiritual disciplines?

We are entering the calendar year 2020. It is my prayer that as we move towards a celebration of 240 years as a worshipping body of Christ in this community that we develop practices so that our spiritual vision is perfected and our work in the community is guided by Christ. As committees and teams meet this year may they seek ways to do good and invite others to come to know Jesus.

Sunday, January 5 is Epiphany as we celebrate the light of the world we will also honor the gift of servants who have led us in 2019 and rejoice with those who will guide us in 2020.

Praying with you,

Pastor Carolyn

Church School

Gathering Assembly begins promptly at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. It is a time of prayer, devotion and announcements before classes begin. Our Gathering Assembly leader, Donald Rose McGhee provides devotions that open our spirits in preparation for the lessons we will receive in our classes. Classes are held in the Education wing of the Fellowship Hall.

Winter Theme: Promise Scriptures: Genesis | Hebrews | Isaiah | Matthew | Acts | Ruth | 2 Samuel | Jeremiah | Exodus. The writer of the student book lessons is Michelle Morris.

Covenants: The Basis for Committed Relationships - The four lessons in this unit focus on covenants and the promises they include. God's covenant with Abram, Ruth's covenant with Naomi, God's covenant with David, and God's new covenant announced through Jeremiah and extended to us remind us of God's faithfulness in keeping promises.

Spiritual Practice: Anam Cara (Soul Friend)

Holiness Expressed - The four lessons in this unit call us to live into the promise God gives us to be holy people. Holiness, a primary attribute of God, is also present in the world God has created; these lessons invite us to look at holiness in four of the ways in which it is expressed: holy place, holy presence, holy people, and holy purpose.

Spiritual Practice: Works of Justice



Small Group Study: 9:45 a.m. - The Gospel of Matthew

Class is held in the BASIC Youth room - bring your favorite Bible as we move through the Gospel.

Youth News

Basic UMYF will meet in January at the Rise Against Hunger Food Packaging Event. We are working the 10:00 a.m. shift. We committed to raising \$500.00 towards the Rise Against Hunger Food Packaging event scheduled for January 20. February will be a coastal trip to work on Hurricane Florence homes. We will be leaving on Friday and returning to Kittrell on Sunday. Keep checking in on the Group page for updates.

Conference Youth Events Schedule for 2020

Global Visions - March 10-15 (grades 10-12)

Washington, D. C.

Theme: God's Globe...al Warming

Join us for five days in our nation's capital to learn about God's green earth through seminars, worship, and sightseeing; discover how climate change affects all God's creation and how to promote sustainability and protect the planet.

Cost \$575 - Registration Deadline January 19 or until full

Kaleidoscope - March 27-29 (grades 6-8)

Camp Don Lee

Theme: Around the World in Three Days

During this weekend together, we will gather for four worship services and dive into the four holy habits: prayer, worship, Bible study, and service.

Cost \$110 - Registration Deadline March 8 or until full

Breakaway - June 22-27 (grades 6-12)

NC Wesleyan College

Theme: Go Out on a Limb

Go out on a limb with us at Breakaway 2020 where youth will root their faith in community, worship, and fun. Summer Breakaway is a worshipful week of camp for middle school and high school youth. The week includes daily worship, small groups for spiritual development, building relationships with new friends and old, expressing creativity in "living worship" groups, and developing a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

Cost \$285 - Registration Deadline Until Full (\$300 after June 5)

ACS (Annual Conference Session for Youth) - July 20-25 (grades 9-12)

Methodist University

Theme: Christmas in July

The youth of ACS vote on the resolutions and, if passed, copies of those resolutions are sent to businesses, organizations, clergy, government leaders, etc. During this week, Conference youth vote on the officers who will represent the youth on various conference committees.

Representatives are also named for the Conference Youth Committee, Conference Youth Council on Youth Ministries, Resolutions Committee, and the Youth Service Fund Task Force.

This week is a time for youth to make a difference. We have a job to do in the United Methodist Church and ACS challenges us to deepen our faith and the role of the Church in the world today.

Rejoice! Emmanuel. **ALL churches** are encouraged to send at least one delegate.

Cost \$285 - Registration Deadline Until Full (\$300 after July 3)

Pilgrimage - November 13-15 (grades 6-12)

Fayetteville Crown Coliseum

Cost: \$35/\$45/\$55

United Methodist Women

This group of mission minded women meet on the 3rd Sunday of most months (July/August break). Always looking for new members. Join us at 3:00 p.m. on a 3rd Sunday.

In January the United Methodist Women will lead us in worship as they honor and remember members of our faith community. In February our women will host the Heritage District UMW leaders at LOTS Day training. Throughout the school year our UMW support the teachers at Zeb Vance with supplies and special treat bags.

Heritage District Leadership Training

The 2020 Heritage District Leadership Training Workshops will be held on Sunday, January 12 at Louisburg UMC, 402 N. Main Street in Louisburg, beginning at 3 pm and concluding at 5:30 pm. We will begin with a brief time of worship before proceeding to classrooms and will dismiss from class.

PPRC

Church Council

Mission Engagement

C4C - movie Resilience

Youth

Lay Leadership - Lay Member

This training is an opportunity to learn what others in our district are doing to grow as disciples.

Heritage District are the hosts for Annual Conference 2020. Consider signing up to usher and spend a day at Annual Conference in Greenville

SIGN UP HERE - <https://sistad.ca/k04n08pu>

United Methodist Men

Every 3rd Sunday at 8:00 a.m. the UMM gather for breakfast. Over eggs, bacon, biscuits, sausage, grits, melon, and tomatoes the men plan and discuss the areas they could serve or provide assistance.

These men give monthly to the missional work of Community Partners of Hope, Vance County's Men's Shelter and Transitional Home. They assist the Trustees with work around the church, provide the paper supplies for fellowship and office supplies for the church secretary as well as give graduating seniors going off to college receive scholarships.

Each Christmas they assist UMW with gifting Zeb Vance families in need.

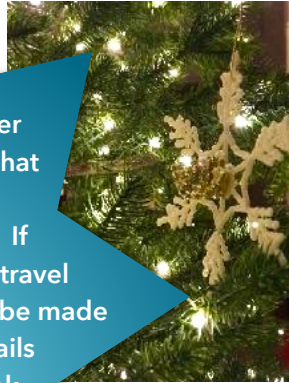
The November BBQ provides their outreach funds and an opportunity for the community to gather and fellowship.

They are always looking for new projects and men to join in the work and the fun!

The Gathering Place is a 1st Wednesday group that meets at 10:00 a.m. Our events change from month to month. We meet, share stories, drink coffee or tea, have whatever snacks we may have brought with us to share. The bingo set comes out and we play, read scriptures, but are primary goal is to be community. There is no age restriction - so young or old or somewhere in the middle - you can join us. We take trips to local businesses from time to time. The Gathering Place is a place of welcome and wonder. This month we are gathering on January 1st with traditional New Year's Foods!



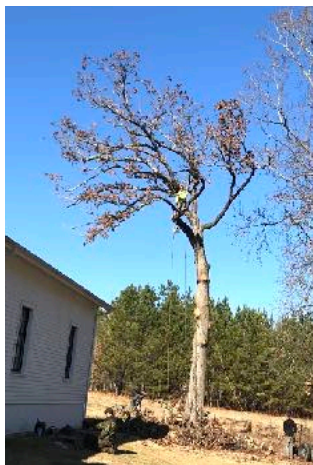
Some images captured this December!



As we head into our winter season, please remember that church events may be cancelled or rescheduled. If you are uncertain it is safe to travel please stay home. Changes will be made to the online calendar, emails sent out and our Facebook page will post an update. If you are uncertain, call Pastor Carolyn.



Senior Circle at Christmas! Join us in 2020 for a light lunch and great programs



And just like that the tree came down!

With deepest humbled heart, I gratefully and thank you for your generosity this year. You have given of yourselves so that God's grace and love has moved through the community and out into the world. Your gift to me this Christmas was so very generous and it has been sent out into the world so that your gift will multiply and God's grace will extend beyond our doors. Thank you for the love you share with Leo and I. It has been a joy serving beside all of you and I thank God for the gift of the Body of Christ at Plank Chapel UMC.
Love,
Pastor Carolyn

Outward Witness Opportunities



The Henderson / Vance County Community is coming together for a special meal packaging experience on **MLK Day, Jan 20, 2020** partnering with Rise Against Hunger. Rise Against Hunger meals are distributed through global partners that administer school feeding programs, orphanages, health clinics, vocational training and respond

to crisis. In addition, we will encourage participants to bring non-perishable foods to be collected by ACTS. Please consider making a donation to help us reach our ambitious goal. Registration will open later in the year for this fun, kid-friendly, high-impact event! **Our goal: \$500 and 10 volunteers!!**



Consider staffing the welcome shift or if male the overnight shift. Our dates for meals are the 4th Tuesday of every month. Susan Sears coordinates the menu. Contact her if you would like to provide part of the meal or help deliver on January 28.

Red Bird Mission Team Update

Mission Trip is planned from July 26 - August 1

Cost is approximately \$550.00 per team member. \$50.00 due on December 30th. We have room for 12 on this mission. Our work will be in the mountains of Kentucky with one day for touring/playing. Contact Susan Sears for more information. cj7review@gmail.com



Upcoming plans for Outward Witness

- ✿ January 20 - MLK Day Rise Against Hunger Food Packaging
- ✿ February 29 - A Resources Brunch for issues of aging, Dementia/Alzheimers, caregivers
- ✿ April 4 - Memory Walk
- ✿ Shelter Meal Dates: January 28, February 25 and March 24
- ✿ Bucket Funds for January and February ACTS
- ✿ July 26 - Mission Trip to Red Bird
- ✿ Recovery Work - Date yet scheduled





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Early Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Open House 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM Red Bird Mission Team meeting 	31 <p>New Year's Eve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Watch Night Service 	1 <p>New Year's Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM The Gathering Place 	2	3	4
5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Early Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM Finance committee 3:30 PM Church Council Meeting 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Outward Witness Meeting 	7	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice 	9	10	11
12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Early Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM District Lay Leader Training 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Leadership Fellows 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership Fellows 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Senior Circle 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice 	16	17	18
19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM UMM 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM UMW 4:00 PM Martin Luther King Worship 	20 <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Rise Against hunger 	21	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice 	23	24	25 <p>Lunar New Year</p>
26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 AM Early Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship - UMW 1:00 PM Family Event 	27	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:20 PM Shelter Meal 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice 	30	31	1

Service Opportunities

January 5 - 3:00 p.m. - Finance Committee, 3:30 p.m. Church Council

January 6 - 6:30 p.m. - Outward Witness Team

January 12 - 3:00 p.m. - District Lay Leadership Training

January 14 - 7:00 p.m. - Trustees Meeting

January 20 - 10:00 a.m. - Rise Against Hunger

January 28 - 6:20 p.m. - Shelter Meal