

CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors!

Souper Bowl Sunday

February 2 - Soup and Sandwiches as we raise funds for our Red Bird Mission Team who will be traveling to Kentucky in July.

LOTS Day - UMW

February 8 the Plank Chapel Circle of United Methodist Women will host the UMW District Officers as they train for their roles of leadership.

Lock-In !!!!

February 21-22 - Join in the fun... games, food, fellowship and Jesus!

Ash Wednesday

February 26 is Ash Wednesday. 7:00 p.m. we will have a service in the sanctuary to begin our Lenten journey to the cross and beyond.

Resources Brunch

February 29 - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. We will have representatives from KerrTar Council on Aging and Dementia Alliance as we explore the resources in our community as we age.



Message from Morgan

Can you believe it? That the month of January has nearly reached its end and soon we will be diving into the cold weather that continues on through the month of February. It feels like in the months between Christmas and Easter that time merely slips by and we seem to have a hard time understanding where it went and why it disappeared so quickly. In this in between time, during these harsh cold winter months, we remember the life of the earthly Jesus. We remember that he was born into the world to bring light, life and peace to all. We remember that the life he lived was the perfect fulfillment of love for all of the world to see.

I say this because though it can be tempting to try and breeze through these winter months, I think that Jesus would want us to remember that he still meets us in the cold. He is with us in the days where the night creeps in earlier than we would like for it to. He is with us when we are alone. He is with us when we struggle to find hope. Because we are a people who believe in the words of the prophet who said, "the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light."

May we never forget that the Lord of Life and Resurrection is also the same God in Flesh who sits with us in the in between times, bringing light and love to the areas of our lives that have been burdened with darkness.

Lenten Disciplines and Love

February 26 is Ash Wednesday which starts our Lenten journey to Easter resurrection. 40 days of engaging in spiritual disciplines or trying new ones. Why 40? Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness before he began his work in the world. Scripture tells us he fasted and prayed and faced human temptations. Our 40 days are days to be present to the transforming power of God through the Holy Spirit as we walk with Jesus towards the cross.

Some of us have daily spiritual practices that bring us closer to God. Others have spiritual disciplines we like to practice but often we allow life or work or other distractions to get in the way of those practices. The 40 days of Lent provide us with time and space to try new things or recommit to life giving spiritual disciplines.

Love requires commitment on our parts. The covenantal love of God is a faithful love. God does not give up on us. We just finished celebrating Christmas, the birth of Emmanuel, "God with Us." God is present with us with every breath we take. How often are we present with God? These 40 days, make a commitment to increase your alone time with God in prayer. This alone time can be outdoors on a walk or in your chair with a candle lit. It is not your devotional reading or scripture study time, it is time set aside to listen to God.

Christ's love for us took him to the cross. Before he was crucified he spoke to his disciples and asked them to love one another. After his resurrection, he met the disciples on the shore and showed them how to love. He asked Peter, "Do you love me?" When Peter said yes, Jesus told him to feed, to tend, to care for His sheep. Jesus' act of forgiveness and reconciliation required something of Peter. Peter was to love, to care, to tend to others. These 40 days can be a time to examine how we love, care, and tend the people in our circle and those outside our circles. Do our actions bring healing or do they harm? Where can we serve these 40 days? Who may need to know they are not forgotten? Do we turn down opportunities to serve because they are inconvenient? Our acts of service are our response to God's love for us, we are extending God's love into the world God so loves.

God's gift of grace to each of us is given freely. There is nothing we can do to deserve such a gift, it is ours to receive or reject. Gifting can also be a Lenten discipline. Consider the cost of the chocolate or coffee or Bojangles Biscuit you are giving up for 40 days. What if you collected and gifted the money you saved towards your favorite charity? What if you purchased that biscuit and then gifted it to a friend you need to reconnect with. Giving gifts is a language of love, consider 40 days of gifting as your Lenten practice.

In the hymn, "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" we sing, "As thou didst hunger bear and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord, to die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy Word." As we grow as disciples of Jesus Christ we continually die to self so that Christ can live in us and through us. Be creative these 40 days, pick a disciple that creates space in your spirit for God to work and transform your heart. We have time to prepare and on Ash Wednesday when we come together for worship and a sooty cross is placed upon us may we remember the sacrifice of Christ.

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.

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 Continues

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

Youth News

Basic UMYF - Winter Lock-In - February 20-21 - Bring snacks, a friend, favorite board game - fun begins at 7:30 p.m. Doors unlocked to head home at 9:00 a.m. Up for discussion -

Conference Youth Events Schedule for 2020

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

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. This week is a time for youth to make a difference. 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

Leading Worship - Places to Serve

Acolyte (noun, from the Greek akólouthos) - an attendant of the Lord's Table; an attendant, assistant, or helper in worship.

An acolyte plays a very important role in worship, a tradition that is more than 1700 years old! Since ancient times, light and fire have reminded people that God is here with us. Acolytes may be any age or gender.

An important part of your job as an acolyte is to begin the worship service. Worship officially begins when our acolytes bring the light of Christ into the sanctuary. This is a symbol of Christ's presence with us at worship. You are reminding the congregation of God's presence with us, and the words of Jesus: "I am the light of the world."

Modern-day acolytes are best known for lighting candles on the communion table or altar. This practice started around 800 AD when large candlesticks were carried by the acolytes and placed on or near the communion table. Soon the candlesticks began to be placed on the communion table itself, and a candlelighter was needed to reach the top of the candles. The candlelighter provided a safe and decorative container for the light carried in the processional.

Worship ends with a Benediction, or Sending Forth. The flame is then carried out of

the church, and the people follow. This symbolizes our being sent out as lights for Christ in the world, and that God is with us in all places at all times.



Ushers (noun - Latin ostiarius - "porter", "doorman") The definition of an usher means door keeper but in truth, our church greatly depends on the many acts of service ushers provide.

Each usher has the opportunity to impact the lives of new and existing people in the church. In most cases, they provide the first impressions of church and ministry of the pastor. Ushers set the spiritual climate of the service by presenting a joyful attitude, make others feel welcome and comfortable, and make sure that everything is flowing in a proper order so that everyone is free to worship without interruption. Ushers come in a variety of ages. The ministry of an usher is not reserved for men only. Women can also serve in this capacity. On Sunday, the Head Usher takes attendance, recruits ushers if one scheduled is absent, and when worship has begun checks the doors throughout the complex to keep children and worship safe and secure. Our Head Usher is Bruce Newman. He would love to speak to you about ushering.

Next month - Choir and Lay Readers

Fellowship and Fundraising

Two opportunities to gather and fellowship as we raise funds for our mission team heading to Red Bird.

February 2nd is Soup-er Bowl Sunday!

Lunch will be served right after worship. We will be serving grilled cheese sandwiches and inviting you to bring a pot of your favorite soup. Desserts and drinks are provided. This event is right after worship. The Red Bird Mission Team will be present to answer any questions and pictures from Susan Sears' last trip will be displayed. A soup bowl will be at the end of the serving table for donations.



Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras) is February 25th. We will be having breakfast for dinner.



This tradition began as a preparation for the Fast of Lent. Families cleaned out their cupboards of all the rich food

ingredients: milk, butter, eggs, flour, and sugar and feasted before the 40 days of Lent. We are inviting you to dine with us. If you wish to bring your favorite breakfast casserole or just your appetite, you are welcome to join us. Donations for the Red Bird Mission Team will be gratefully appreciated. Dinner is from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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.

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

Trustee Updates-Cemetery Rules

The Cemetery Committee drafted an update to the Cemetery Rules and the final draft has been approved by the Church Council. Copies are available upon request. To ensure the upkeep of our cemetery, we need your help. Consider giving to the Cemetery Fund on a recurring basis. Your financial gifts to this fund will provide for the grounds to be well kept and any improvements we need to make to the property. Mail checks to Plank Chapel UMC Cemetery Fund, c/o Mrs. Darlene Ranes, Cemetery Fund Treasurer, 2120 S Lynnbank Road, Kittrell, NC 27544.

The administrator of the cemetery is Mr. John Abbott should you have any questions regarding the new rules. He will also help you locate a plot. He can be reached at (252) 438-4644 or (252) 213-4644. His email is riflemano2@embarqmail.com.



Please remember that church events may be cancelled or rescheduled because of winter weather. 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.

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.

Outward Witness Opportunities



Red Bird Mission Team Update

Mission Trip is planned from July 26 - August 1

Cost is approximately \$550.00 per team member. \$250.00 due on March 9. We have room for 3 more 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

Resources Brunch

February 29

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Join us Saturday morning as we gather with representatives from KerrTar Area Agency on Aging and Dementia Alliance of North Carolina to provide information and answer questions around care giving, resources, and issues with growing older. This conversation is not age restricted. All ages welcome to come and learn and grow together. Do you know all the resources available to you?

Light brunch will be served.

Work Camp strives to provide home repair for low-income community residents and maintenance for Mission buildings and grounds. Some examples of work projects are roof replacement, small room additions, painting, building porches or ramps, and grounds keeping. Other light duty work is available such as cutting soup upc's, office work, craft and community store helpers, and recycling. A single fee covers the cost of each person's lodging, meals, and materials used.

In addition to providing mission opportunities, we strive to provide an atmosphere where participants grow spiritually and gain a personal understanding of mission. Evenings are spent in Christian fellowship and learning about the diverse ministries of Red Bird Mission.



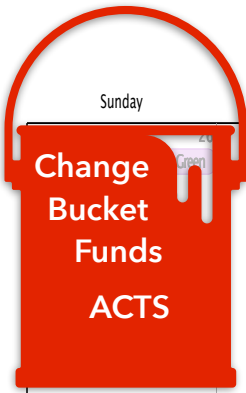
Consider staffing the welcome shift or if male the overnight shift. Our dates for meals are the 4th Tuesday of every month. Susan Sears coordinates the menu. Contact her if you would like to provide part of the meal or help deliver on January 28.

Upcoming plans for Outward Witness

- ✿ February 25 - Fat Tuesday Fundraiser
- ✿ February 29 - A Resources Brunch for issues of aging, Dementia/Alzheimers, caregivers
- ✿ April 18 - Memory Walk
- ✿ Shelter Meal Dates: February 25 and March 24
- ✿ Bucket Funds for January and February ACTS
- ✿ July 26 - Mission Trip to Red Bird
- ✿ Recovery Work - Date yet scheduled



February



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 Green	27	28 6:20 PM Shelter Meal	29 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice	30	31	1
2 4th Sunday after the Epiphany—Green 8:30 AM Early Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:30 PM Souper Bowl	3	4	5 10:00 AM The Gathering Place 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice	6	7	8 9:00 AM LOTS Day
9 5th Sunday after the Epiphany—Green Scouting Ministries Sunday (USA) 8:30 AM Early Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting	10 9:00 AM Leadership Fellows	11 ... Leadership Fellows	12 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice	13 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study	14 	15
16 6th Sunday after the Epiphany—Green 8:00 AM UMM 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	17 Presidents' Day (USA)	18 6:30 PM Outward Witness	19 10:00 AM Senior Circle 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice	20 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study 7:00 PM Kittrell Community Watch	21 7:30 PM Lock-In	22 ... Lock-In
23 Transfiguration Sunday—White/Cold 8:30 AM Early Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	24	25 5:30 PM Fat Tuesday - Breakfast for Dinner 6:20 PM Shelter Meal	26 Ash Wednesday—Purple/Gray 5:30 PM Faith and Fitness 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	27 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study	28	29 10:00 AM Resources Brunch

Special Offering in February
Methodist Home for Children - February 16
 Children deserve a safe, loving home where they can thrive and live to their full God-given potential.
On Methodist Home for Children SUNDAY, you can make this happen.
 Methodist Home for Children Sunday is a special collection for the children served by MHC – children who come from empty homes, failing in school, looking for acceptance in all the wrong places. Neglected, abused, traumatized. We see hope in each one of them – and you bring that hope to life. Thank you for believing and for giving.