

CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors!

2020 Graduates



Austyn Abbott -
Kerr Vance
Academy 2020 -
will attend
Liberty
University in the
fall

Scott Beckham
Vance Charter
School 2020 - will
go to VGCC and
enter the
workforce



Kayla Tippett (Sally
and Richard
Coghills'
granddaughter)
Oxford Preparatory
School 2020

Amanda Barber (Jay and Pat
Fuller's granddaughter -
Wakefield High School 2020 -
Attending Brunswick CC in
the fall



Christopher Harris -
ECU Graduate 2020

Unknown Territories

As a young girl my fascination with unknown territories was heightened by my father's wanderlust. We not only traveled over summer holidays, but we moved rather frequently. My brother went to 13 different schools before he graduated from High School. He said the reason he played foot ball was so that when school began he would know someone.

Then I married Leo and he took me to various new locations in our years of active duty in the Marine Corps. We crossed the United States at least six times before we settled in North Carolina. He even took us to Okinawa, Japan. God was not through with us though. When I was called into ministry, we packed again and again. I had been considering the new unknown of our retirement location. Little did I know that the new unknown territory would have nothing to do with geography.

March 8 we gathered in the sanctuary. Our field education student Morgan Welch preached a powerful sermon. Plans were being set for the next week's worship when word came around March 13th from our Bishop Hope Morgan Ward that in person worship in sanctuaries was to stop and to be reevaluated in two weeks. Those two weeks have turned into two months and counting. The future remains uncertain as to the date we will return to the pews. Together we have been learning new ways to worship and remain connected.

We are facing a virus that is cruel when it catches hold of a person. There doesn't seem to be any good hand hold for us to keep us balanced in the world of medicine or public opinion. As we navigate our future together we turn towards our faith and know who holds our future. How we long for that to look like our past and I don't mean 240 years ago, but just maybe 3 months ago.

This unknown territory of church through live-streaming and

limited occupancy in person gatherings with face masks, physically distance across sanctuaries offers us new ways to see God at work. We have been stripped of our liturgical handholds to find ourselves relying on God's creative word to shape anew God's church. It is risky business this, being church. We will forget safety practices of washing hands or sanitizing door knobs. We may get too close or hug because touch is an anchor hold we cannot resist.

I preach most regularly that God created each of us and called us beloved. I preach that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Every being is sacred to God. Maintaining safe worshipping practices honors God and protects those who enter our doors. We are venturing into other ways to worship together through technology and just recently in the early morning hours at the pavilion. Why do we need worship? Why do we need Bible studies and church school? Because there is another more cruel virus out there. It is fear. It clutches at our hearts and we start to see the other as the enemy. We lose trust in one another or with those who don't see the world the way we do and we build barriers to keep us safe when we are really creating a pressure pot of fear.

Scripture continually reminds us not to be afraid, to step out in faith into the promise of God's Kingdom here on earth. Here is where the territory becomes unknown and without faith that God is leading us, very scary. Jesus said love. He continually had to define who we are to love: God, neighbor, enemy, self, and one another. We are called to love unconditionally, to seek the good for our neighbor above our own self interests. We are to see each person as fearfully and wonderfully made no matter the color of our skin, the language they speak, their wealth, their poverty, their tattoos, their sexual identity or preference, their status as alien or citizen, their gender, their age, their physical, emotional, or psychological handicap, their educational status, their political leanings, and the list goes on.



As we slowly open doors to enter into worship in person again, it is my prayer that we will also open our hearts and minds to the movement of the Holy Spirit to shape us into the Body of Christ. May the spirit refine us with fire to purge those places within us to see any person as less than. May the living waters cleanse us so that we become new creations and Plank Chapel a living breathing body of Christ! May we die to self and live for Christ, proclaiming His Kingdom has come!

Praying with you,

Pastor Carolyn

Worship and Study Opportunities in June

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. — Awakenings in the Pavilion (min 25)

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. — Prayers in the Pavilion (min 25)

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. — Facebook Live

**4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. — Bible Study (Zoom/Youth Room/Pavilion)
Currently in the Gospel of Matthew**

Meetings

**Church Council
Meeting June 2 at
7:00 p.m. - In person
and with Zoom**

May 11, 2020

Plank Chapel United Methodist Church
3047 Bobbitt Road
Kittrell, N. C. 27544

To the Pastor,

After an appointment in Henderson a few days ago. I told my wife, today is our 64th Anniversary, that we were going to do some "exploring" the area. I knew that my Great, Great Grandfather, Simon Stainback was buried at your Church. I asked several people if they knew anything about Plank Chapel Church. A Gendeman told me he knew about the Church and gave me some directions. I was to go down Kittrell Road until I came to a brown house. The Church would be on the left, a short distance from the brown house. His directions were right on and we soon arrived at your Church. Your Church still had the appearance that I recalled from 78 years ago.

This brought back some old memories. I was 7 years old when he passed away at his Daughter Irene, my Grandmother's home near Weldon, N. C. He was originally from the Kittrell area. His wife was a Hunt and she died very young leaving Simon to raise four children. She is buried next to him. He never re-married. The descendants of the Overton family buried in your Church Cemetery were somehow related to Grand Pa Stainback. There are probably more relatives I do not know about also interred there.

His Funeral Service was held in Weldon and he was transported to Plank Chapel for interment. I recall standing behind the driver in an old Ford sedan all the way from Weldon to Plank Chapel. There was a Graveside Service followed by a meal and fellowship at the Church. An eye opening experience for us younger Grand Children was witnessing soil being shoveled to cover the grave.

Our short time at your Church was one we will always remember. It was beautiful afternoon. While we were there, the sound of Chimes were echoing throughout the countryside. We stood there beside Grand Pa Stainback's grave, listening to the sound of some favorite Hymns, reflecting and giving thanks for the Loving and Caring God we have.

With all that is going on with the COVID-19 Virus, what comfort it was to be at such a Peaceful place. Thank you and your Congregation for the Ministry you provide.

In Christ,

Bill and Eudene
Freuler

Bill and Eudene Freuler
291 North Brown Road
Littleton, N. C. 27850



**From our Finance
Chairperson: Mac Wilson**

Jesus multiplied 5 fish and 2 barley loaves into enough food to feed the thousands gathered. What you are able to give in tithes and offerings through Plank Chapel will continue Christ's work. 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.

(Thoughts were his, my secretary edited his words)

**Peace with Justice Sunday
June 7**

Half of the offering goes to Peace with Justice ministries in the annual conference. The remainder assists the General Board of Church and Society for its Peace with Justice efforts.

United Methodists everywhere are being asked to celebrate a father, grandfather or father figure by donating to a local church,



posting about it on social media and encouraging others to do the same! Let's participate as a congregation. Offer a gift in honor or memory of a special father figure in your life. Donations of any amount are extremely helpful to our ongoing ministries. Make your donation to Plank Chapel, c/o Financial Secretary, Mrs. Judy Wilson, 3969

Bobbitt Road, Kittrell, NC 27544.

ACTS, Cokesbury Food Pantry, The Help Center all are doing what they can to feed those in need this restricted time. If you are able help where you can. Reach out to neighbors - they too may need food, paper goods, a friendly voice, or a kind word. Thank you for all that you are doing already!

June 7, 2020 is **Peace with Justice Sunday**, one of six Special Sunday offerings in The United Methodist Church. Our gifts support ministries in the annual conference and around the world. This quadrennial we have received \$694,542, making it possible to plant new seeds of peace with justice in God's garden of creation. For example in Mindanao, part of the Philippines Annual Conference, a group of men is providing a sustainable source of organic, healthy foods for the surrounding community through organic agricultural practices. In Adamawa State in northeastern Nigeria, the Peace with Justice garden looks like youth who are recovering from substance abuse. Through education and rehabilitation, youth are encouraged to lead healthier lives, while addressing underlying situations that lead to addiction. The Peace with Justice garden in New Orleans looks like laundry services for women who are experiencing homelessness. The Amanzi Women's Ministry at Peoples United Methodist Church offers free laundry services, opportunities for spiritual growth, coaching in simple life skills and other educational opportunities. Their children have a safe, fun place to play.

Words from our Field Education Students



In the beginning of the book of Acts, we hear about the miraculous pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. People of all ages and nations are being presented with the Spirit of God and we hear in the beginning of Acts chapter 2 that they were all together in one place. This year those words hit me harder than they ever have before. This year I wonder what it means to believe that we are all together in spirit while we are separated physically. As we long to be together once again, shaking hands and giving hugs, I hope that we will be able to cling to the truth that God's Spirit holds us together when we long for connection. I hope that we will invite the Holy

Spirit to show us how we might dream new dreams and connect in more meaningful ways, even in the midst of social isolation. I pray that we will remember that we are not alone, we do not go unseen by God, and it is God who united us with a Spirit that is stronger and more powerful than we could ever begin to fathom.

Blessings always,
Morgan



I love Pentecost Sunday. The red paraments and banners adorning the church, images of flames and doves reminding us of how uncontrollable the Holy Spirit can be. Surrounded by these images and hearing the story of the first Pentecost - when a group of people from the rural region of Galilee spoke in so many different languages and 3,000 people were added to the church in a single day - we get the sense that anything can happen! Even in such uncertain times, we know that the Holy Spirit is constantly at work to create new things and to create new opportunities for the body of Christ. But it isn't just the prospects for the future that excite me about Pentecost - I love Pentecost because it connects me to my past, my church roots.

I grew up in a Pentecostal church - Pine Creek Pentecostal Holiness Church. This is the church in which I was baptized, in which a Sunday School teacher of mine insisted when I was 8 years old that I would be a preacher someday, and where my grandparents still attend every Sunday morning and Wednesday night. We didn't follow the church calendar at Pine Creek, but the spirit of Pentecost was alive and well every time the church would gather. Now, as a Methodist and someone who loves predictable patterns, I enjoy the reminder each year at Pentecost that with the power of the Holy Spirit, the Church is always capable of doing new and exciting things.

Perhaps that's a reminder we all need as churches all around the world are facing a new and challenging time. Our current situation may be unfamiliar, and we may not have patterns for how to be the Church in the midst of social isolation, but just as on the day of Pentecost we can be sure that the Holy Spirit is ready to do something new. And who knows... it just may start with a group of people from a rural community learning to speak a few new languages or learning to do old things in a new way!





Ephesians 6:4 - *"and ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"*.

Fathers like mothers play a crucial role in the development of a child's well being. Children look to their fathers to lay down and enforce rules. Fathers provide a wall of trust and security both physically and emotionally. They are protective, providers of the necessities of life, a source of encouragement, patient and promote inner strength and growth by spending time with their children.

Statistics show that children who grow up without the presence of their father are more likely to live in poverty, have behavioral problems, be a school drop out, commit crimes and go to prison.

Fatherhood is an awesome privilege and responsibility.

So on this Father's Day honor the special men in your life, especially the fathers, who through their love and support have added value to your life.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY from the United Methodist Women!!

Darlene Raney
President UMW

PLANK CHAPEL ONLINE

Locked down? Shut in? Join us online at
11:00 Sunday for the live service

Live and recent services are at: [facebook.com/
PlankChapelUMC/videos](https://www.facebook.com/PlankChapelUMC/videos)

Our [PlankChapel.org](https://www.PlankChapel.org) site has links to the
Facebook and YouTube pages

Our site also links to video and audio archives
of earlier services

Soon, we will broadcast for the 11:00 Sunday
service in the parking lot

June 1

National Day of Lament

From our Bishop

As we in the United States mark the death of 100,000 people to COVID-19, let us as United Methodist people join in prayers in worship on Sunday, May 31, and join with countless others on Monday, June 1, in a national Day of Lament. Religious communities and civic leaders including governors and mayors are summoning us to prayer and lament over these days. Let us pray for the healing of our nation as we remember all who are suffering, all who are laboring amid danger, all who are disproportionately impacted, and all who have capacity and power to lead in this time of great need.

The following is not a statement to sign, but rather a *call* to make, share, and use together — crafted by 100+ diverse faith leaders — which says, in part:

We will ask God to help heal our land with a moment of mourning and honoring those many who have died, often without their loved ones around them. We come together both to weep and to rejoice for those lives which have been lost. We shall mourn the loss of so many Americans, many known only to families and friends, coworkers and neighbors. We will mourn family members and friends whom we loved; worked and worshiped with; ate, played, and prayed with; important members of our communities, some who were on the front lines of caring for and serving others; and those we passed on the street with a smile and nod. By God's grace, we will mourn with families who have not been able to memorialize, mourn, or properly bury their COVID dead.

Our lament will also honor hard truths we have learned during this pandemic: Our suffering has been unequal, elders have been vulnerable and alone, black and brown neighbors have borne disproportionately both the brunt of sickness and death and the front lines labor of fighting this disease. Native communities, our land's original caretakers, have been particularly hard hit — as they have been so many times in the past. Asian Americans have been targeted by hateful words and actions. Our prayers for the healing of the nation must acknowledge the brokenness of our democracy and rededicate ourselves to repair the injustices this pandemic has revealed, even as work for the healing of those who are afflicted with the virus.

... This momentous and tragic 100,000 marker will not be an empty data point on death's grim graph; rather we will remember those whom we loved and pray for both healing and hope — for our nation and the world. As a people we have borne this pandemic's cost in the lives of our loved ones; as a nation we shall honor and mourn them together.

As faith leaders we must help to lead our congregations, communities, and country in this time of grief and lament in a way that will lead us forward more united as a country to address the very real challenges we face ahead. And that we must do together.

With thanksgiving to God for our partnership in Christ's ministry,

Hopie Morgan Ward

If you need a grocery run or other errands,
 contact Lori Litton @ (513) 462-0537. If you want
 to be an errand runner contact her as well.



Community Prayers

For... Family of Joe Weaver, Frank Babicz, Judy Hanson,
 Kylie Moore, Charlotte Lalas, Elizabeth Moss Wilson,
 William "Peanut" Hendley, Sue Beal, Evie Odom,
 Brandi Dickerson, Tommy Fowler, Martha Rowland,
 James Deans, David Driver, Ruth Hailey, Tilly Hughes,
 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



Missions Team working with Henderson Churches for a Potato Drop - 18 tons of potatoes shared!

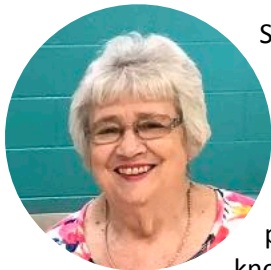
**Annual
 Conference
 June 18
 10 am - 12 pm
 Live Streaming**



**Feeding the
 Community**

**Cokesbury Food
 Pantry Sundays
 June 14 and 28
 Nonperishable Goods**

Church School



Sunday School lessons
for June, 2020

A study of Israel and the ancient Israelites is a study of us. The people will come to know God in a greater and more profound way. One of God's anointed prophets; Elijah had a purpose and a mission to remind Israel who and whose they were as the people of God.

The discovery of the scroll brought about Josiah's renewed passion and love for God. Whatever we do or fail to do, God never ceases to extend unlimited, unending love toward us.

Part of human nature shows human weakness in the light of God's unconditional love. God always gives us a choice to obey or not obey, and our decisions always have consequences.

Each week I put out a Sunday School thought on the lesson for the week. If you are not getting this email each week and would like to receive it, please email me (mcgheej@vance.net) and I will add your name to the list. Rev. Carolyn is so helpful in sending this out on Sunday mornings. If you do not have email and would like a copy mailed to you, call me and let me know.

Donald Rose McGhee

Summer Theme: Community

This summer, our lessons support the theme of "Community." The writer of the student book lessons is Robert Gardner; the teacher book writer is Martha Myre. Books are in the Willing Workers Classroom for you to pick up.

A New Thing

Spiritual Practice - Study

Scripture - Deuteronomy 8:1-10 | 1 Kings 18:20-39 | 2 Kings 22:8-20 | Hosea 1:2-11

If you look at the texts of this unit in the sequence they are laid out over the four lessons, it may not be immediately apparent

why the unit theme is "A New Thing." While Lesson 1 presents God's charge to ancient Israel to keep the commandments, Lessons 2 and 3 focus on incidents brought about by the people failing to keep the commandments, and Lesson 3 adds the note of divine judgment. It's only when we get to Lesson 4 that the new creation theme emerges. But after the journey the first three lessons takes us through, the need for a fresh start is obvious, and the message of restoration that God announces through Hosea is most welcome.



A New People

Scripture - Jeremiah 23:1-8 | Daniel 1:8-17 | Daniel 3:19-30 | Nehemiah 9:9-17, 32-33

Spiritual Practice - Prayer

While the Lord invites all to be people of God, the Old Testament is essentially the story of God's dealings with a specific group of people, the Israelites. The four lessons of this unit give us an opportunity to look at some key stories related to

those dealings: God and the remnant, the community's connection to God, God's care for the people in a time of great stress, and how God's love for the people continued despite their unfaithfulness. All these stories have applications to us today, but we begin to learn about God's ways through biblical stories about God and the Israelites.

A New Way of Life

Scripture - Luke 19:1-10 | John 4:7-30, 39-42 | Luke 10:25-37 | Matthew 15:21-28 | Mark 5:1-20

Spiritual Practice - Hospitality

The Bible passages in the five lessons of this unit are all intended to enlarge our understanding of the word neighbor. Four of the five are incidents that directly involve Jesus, and the fifth is a parable Jesus told expressly to show what it means to be a neighbor, the parable we call the parable of the good Samaritan. All these passages are important, for they elucidate Jesus' summary statement of one of the two most important commandments: "You must love your neighbor as you love yourself" (Matthew 22:39).

Soup Kitchen - May 31st - serving at 1st UMC in Henderson - volunteers to arrive at 10:30 a.m. and prepare and serve a meal to go for those who are in need. Contact Pastor Carolyn if you would like to help. 1st UMC Henderson provides the food for us to pack.

CONFERENCE YOUTH NEWS



We have made the decision to recreate Breakaway and ACS (Annual Conference Session for students) as virtual gatherings. Our Design Teams are working towards creating things we have never done before. **Please register for these two events and pay the deposit in order to reserve your spot. <https://nccumc.org/youth/events/register/>**

Conference-Wide Virtual Youth Sunday on Pentecost Sunday (May 31st) at 5 pm on live.nccumc.org! The message will be given by our own Bishop Hope Morgan Ward. We hope you will join us for a service of joy, togetherness, and all the beautiful love that [Conference Youth Ministries](#) provides!



On June 21st the United Methodist Men would be meeting for breakfast. Thomas Beckham would like to hear from you about “bring your own biscuit” under the pavilion at 8:00 a.m. on June 21st. Call him, send a text, or email...if you bring your own chair it helps with keeping all people safe (a mask does too)



Youth Sunday - June 21

Seniors to be leading in worship
Austyn Abbott and Scott Beckham
Celebrate with them at 11:00 a.m.

Maybe a live streamed event
Consider how we can adorn the sanctuary,
the lawn, the parking lot!