

CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors!

A Journey to Remember

One thing I have noticed in the Bible is that the people of God appear to always be on one journey or another. They are either going into exile or traveling to the promised land. In the Gospels, Jesus seems to be on a journey from his early childhood with the escape to Egypt to avoid Herod's plans to murder him until his journey to Golgotha and the cross. Actually, Jesus was traveling while still in his mother's womb and his journey didn't end at the cross. Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. Still, his journey is not complete as he will come again. Paul travels all over the Mediterranean to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and his journeys brought thousands upon the path.

As followers of Jesus Christ we speak of our own faith journey and how we are traveling on the road of salvation. This summer there have been many instances where the story of a pilgrim's journey may have been lost because the opportunity to gather and share the story has been challenged by the current state of our world.

I am sitting in a hotel room in Salem, New Hampshire having journeyed north to share in the remembering of Leo's mother's journey of faith. Her youngest son told us of a particular part of the journey that we all needed to remember. He spoke of a family they befriended in Connecticut for the short while that they lived there. Years later one winter the young girl of that family now an adult arrived at their house with her own children. They were relocating and broke. Marjorie and Leo took them in and prepared a Christmas for a family in need. Tom remembered his mother's love and compassion for one who was in a place of need. As the story unfolded I heard Jesus reminding us, "when I was naked, you clothed me, hungry you fed me...the least of these." Not a perfect family, but striving towards perfection through the difficult journey of loving neighbor as God loves.



My family teases me about my use of the word journey for my life, yet that is what I am on, we all are on. God calls us into a relationship with him and that relationship is a transformational journey. August is a good time to take stock of our progress on this journey. Just a few questions to consider. Have you found a way to continue to grow in your faith in these unusual days? Are you being accountable for your spiritual disciplines with a friend or a small group? Where do you find yourself today? Are you at a "rest stop?" Are you in the wilderness? Have you found yourself on the mountaintop with Jesus?

August is also a month of last “summer vacations” when families are known to journey to places other than home. Some go to the mountains, others to the shore. Each fall I remember returning to school having to share what I did on my summer vacation.

Our life of faith is a journey to remember. It will not end at our death but continue until Christ comes again and we feast at the heavenly table. But I am still left to wonder, will it truly ever end? We are called to love God and love neighbor. Learning to love as Christ loves is a life long journey. Take time to remember your journey so that you can reflect on all that God has done within you and through you. Share your story with others. Your journey is a journey for us to remember and in the telling others may join us on the path.

Praying with you,

Pastor Carolyn

Words from our Field Education Students

As the summer heat moves on and school season approaches, I am naturally doing a lot of reflecting. Oh how wonderful it has been to be worshipping with you all both physically and over Zoom for the past year. I can't help but wonder where all the time has gone! I am so thankful for the ways in which you have made me feel welcome in your sanctuary and also you have made me feel welcomed in your lives. I have been thinking a lot lately about how the gift of prayer has stretched me to see how often in our daily lives we have the opportunity to give praises to God. I hope that as we continue to journey through unknown territory that we will all be expectant in prayer that the Lord is showing up in our everyday living. God is with us when we wash the dishes, when we brush our teeth, when we drive to the grocery store, and when we worship virtually. Though my time at Plank Chapel surely is not ending in the way that I would have hoped, I am still so very grateful for



the ways in which God's presence has been made known to me over the past year through your lives. May the love of God continue to move within you and protect you in the days to come.



Much love and blessings,
Morgan

As odd as it seems, my time at Plank Chapel is quickly drawing to a close. Though it feels like I have just begun, as I write this I have only three Sundays left of making the drive to Kittrell. While in this time I have gotten to know Carolyn and a handful of others pretty well, I hate that I have missed out on getting to meet in person the rest of you all.

Over the past year of sitting in classrooms (or Zoom rooms) at the divinity school, I had looked so forward to sitting on front porches or in local restaurants instead, building relationships with the people of a church like Plank Chapel. It's hard to tell what all I have missed out on by not getting to meet all of you this summer. Perhaps I missed out on a few favorite recipes, or maybe even some good fishing spots (though I hear those are pretty closely

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.

(Thoughts were his, my secretary edited his words)

guarded by a few members of the church!). And while I do count these as losses for myself, I do not wish to leave you on a sad note, but rather, a note of encouragement. I want you to know that I count it as a loss that I did not get to meet many of you all because you have so much to offer.

Being from a small, rural town myself, I have a bit of an insight into what the people of Plank Chapel have to offer. At the top of the list, I'm sure, is hospitality. Be that in kindness, casserole, or just time for a nice, long conversation, I know there are examples of the hospitality of Christ among you. Another trait I missed out on is wisdom, the kind of wisdom that comes with seeing a thing or two in your day. I'm sure that many of you could have told me some things that would take me years to figure out on my own. Or you've had some experiences that I could have learned from. I hate that I missed the opportunity to gain some of your local knowledge and understand things about Kittrell and Vance County better. Beyond these things, I know I also missed out on gardening tips, insights about God, some good stories, and even a few surprises.

But the good news is, even if I might not have been able to fully benefit from all you have to offer, there are plenty of people who can! There are so many gifts within the people of Plank Chapel, and God wants you to share them with others. So, when the time comes and it is safe to do so again, take someone under your wing. Or invite someone new to church. Be eager to share the gifts that God has given you, both personally and as a church community. There are plenty of people all around you without a church home, or who are new to the area. Be open to learning from them (and maybe even trying new things to make them feel at home) but also remember that you have plenty to offer. And so, to paraphrase Matthew 28:19 God calls you to go out and make disciples of all people, having coffee with them and giving them vegetables out of your garden, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*Thanks be to God, who has given us all gifts worth sharing
Jacob Dye*

Plank Chapel United Methodist Women

As the month of August approaches I am reminded of memories growing up here in Bobbitt. By the end of August the tobacco harvest was usually completed, vegetables had been preserved for winter eating and daylight hours had begun to decrease. But most importantly (especially for me) was the beginning of a new school year. New clothes were bought. New school supplies were purchased. A new year of learning with new teachers and subjects presented opportunities and challenges. It was a rewarding time for students, parents and teachers. So I think of how many challenges await the students, parents, teachers, administrators, etc. as this school year begins. Let us pray daily for all of them to remain safe as they navigate the new routines. One of the most important mission areas of the UMW is the welfare of women, children and youth. Never before has there been a time when our prayers and support are more necessary and needed for our children and youth. As I stated before pray for our schools as well as our state, nation and world. Best wishes to our students, parents, teachers and all staff from the Plank Chapel United Methodist Women.



*Darlene Raney
President, UMW*

Church School

I have been sending out Sunday School Thoughts each Sunday since we have not been having Sunday School. If you have not been receiving a copy by email and do not have a computer and would like a copy call me and I will mail you a copy. I welcome any feed back or input you might have.

Donald Rose McGhee
252-38-8645
email mcgheej@vance.net



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 on the Red Table in the Fellowship Hall.

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).



Wil Bailey (#S-00140) San Isidro, Costa Rica

An SEJ/Conference missionary and president of Acts One Eight Missions, Wil is responsible for working with local pastors in the southern Costa Rica and organizes construction projects at the Methodist churches in that area for U.S. work teams. He is also the director of the Costa Rica Mission Projects Missions and Ministry Center in San Isidro, where volunteer teams are housed during their stay and is the site for a day care center. Contact – Email: Jwilb4@yahoo.com Web: costaricamissionprojects.com.

Until all can safely come...

Worship and large gathering meetings will not resume in person until all can safely come. We will have Facebook Live for worship and Zoom for meetings. Groups and committees that are 15 or less can meet in person following safety guidelines. Still some in the smaller groups will prefer to meet through Zoom, that will always be scheduled.

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 about 10:55

Video of recent 11:00 services can be replayed at any time

Also online at: facebook.com/plankchapelUMC

Replay audio or video from older services at PlankChapel.org, archives link

Good Morning Pastor,

I've attached a photo of the shopping angels flyer. Ideally we're looking for elderly people, mothers with small infants or anyone that has heart, lung, or immune conditions. The way it works is - the person registers online or calls the [252-226-0131](tel:252-226-0131) number. If the person registers online then someone will contact them and figure out the details , shopping list, times, budget etc. The shopping angels then does the shopping with his/her own money and upon delivery with receipt the person reimburses the shopper. Strict rules about no contact, groceries will be left on porch and the money will also be left on the porch. Cash only. I think this is a good way to stay connected and help those most vulnerable. Thanks for adding it to the chapel chatter. Website



www.shoppingangelsglobal.org


Email- shoppingangelsNC.com

Your Shopping Angel - Peggy Hernandez

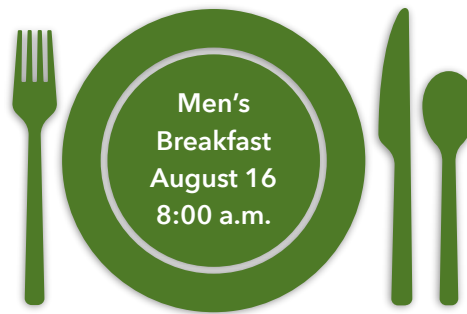
Memory Walk 2020/2021

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>



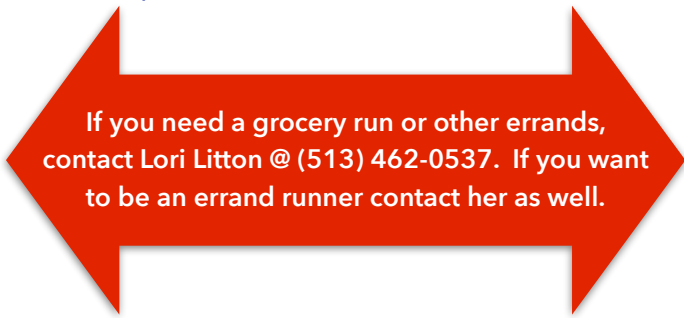
Join us under the Pavilion. Breakfast biscuits will be provided. It is a "bring your own morning beverage." Contact Thomas Beckham if you plan on attending. (Bad weather - we will meet indoors)

Committees to Meet in August

- PPRC
- Finance
- Trustees



Chairpersons will be setting dates and times - zoom options will be provided - meetings in person will be in the Fellowship Hall with masks and appropriate distancing.



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... Mercy Scott, Freddie McGhee, James Medlin, Lysa Mackey, Thomas Fowler, Patricia Rogers, Frank and Susan Babicz, Judy Hanson, Kylie Moore, Charlotte Lalas, Elizabeth Moss Wilson, William "Peanut" Hendley, Evie Odom, Brandi Dickerson, 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



Feeding the Community



Worship and Study Opportunities in August

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. — Awakenings in the Pavilion (max25)

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

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. - Bible Study via Zoom (from the youth room)

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!

Cokesbury Food Pantry Sundays

**August 2 and 16
Nonperishable Goods**