

CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors!



O Come, Come, Come...

October is a month full of dates that remind us of our heritage as followers of Jesus Christ. Often churches have their homecomings in this month. The pandemic and all of its complexities has been reshaping our understanding of church and community.

Yet, my heart went to a song, “the Little Brown Church in the Vale”. It was written by William S. Pitts in 1857. The story goes that he and his fiancé

were riding on a stage coach that stopped in Bradford, Iowa. It was a vibrant town in 1857. As he waited he noticed this peaceful landscape. Captured by its beauty he pictured a church in the vale before him. That imagined view created the hymn we sing. Six years later Mr. Pitts returned to Bradford for work and witnessed the construction of The First Congregation Church on the very spot he imagined a little brown church. Bradford, like many small towns began to shrink in population as the railroad chose Nashua, Iowa as its stop. “The church still stands today with the nearest town 2 miles away.” (*The History of Hymn Singing as told through One Hundred and One Famous Hymns* by Charles Johnson)



The hymn takes us from our childhood entry through the church doors to our final exit through the doors to our tombs. He speaks of his desire to be within its walls until that day when he goes to the mansions of light. On All Souls Night we venture into our cemetery and light up the night with battery operated candles on the graves of the saints that came before us. This year we may wonder if our little white church on the hill will one day be a lone sentinel of faith in a community that diminishes because of circumstances unforeseen. This is the word of hope that comes not just from the song, but from the Little Brown Church in the Vale. Worship still happens on Sundays. People gather in person and there is video recorded. People still come to the Little Brown Church in the Vale.

Our challenge in 2021 forward is to not be afraid to vision or imagine God’s future for Plank Chapel UMC. In the King James Version of the Bible Proverbs 29:18 states, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” The Episcopal Church is recasting its own image. Imogen Rhodenhiser shared it on her Facebook page, “We’re becoming a church that looks and acts like Jesus: the Episcopal Branch of the

Jesus movement.” Their hashtag is #wearebecoming. The truth in this statement is all of us are becoming more like Jesus as we allow God to form us. The church is a body that is also becoming more like Jesus as the church undergoes the same sanctifying grace that we as individuals receive. We are all branches of the Jesus movement. Can you imagine what we could be in our community as we look and act like Jesus? What multiple ways of worship will develop? What new methods of formation will help disciples grow? What will be our missional focus? Our task is to make disciples who make disciples. God is always forming, reforming, and transforming His church. This July the 10th is on a Sunday, my prayer is it is a day when our doors are wide open, our pews are filled, the bells ring out “The Little Brown Church” and we celebrate what God has done through us, doing through us, and is calling us to do in the future.

November 6th is Charge Conference. It is this virtual meeting where we share who we are and who God is calling us to be. Let us be in prayer for God’s vision for our life together.

Praying with you,

Pastor Carolyn

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”
Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV)

Preparing for Charge Conference

Committees to begin their work of telling our story and preparing for our future.

- Reports due in October 25th

Field Education - Our missional work

Noah Glover came to us for the 2021 - 2022 academic year. On September 12 he entered into worship with us and I knew it would be a challenge for me as his supervisor to teach him as I saw a student ready for his first appointment.

On September 19 - as a congregation - you witnessed his giftedness, not only in leading worship but in his love for music. On the 20th of September, Noah and I talked. It appears the Rural Fellows cohort also knew he was ready. A two point charge was in need of a pastor and when the District Superintendent of the Fairway District reached out to Rural Fellows, Noah was recommended for the appointment. As sad as we are to lose a gifted student, he is going where God has called him. May we pray for him during this

time as he begins his first appointment at Macedonia UMC and Ophir UMC.

To date we have journeyed with 9 Field Education students since 2010. Prior to my arrival you had two others that I know of, one being Carol Dean prior to her appointment at Plank Chapel.

Krysha Jamis was our academic year placement in 2020. It was at that time when Duke Divinity School only allowed virtual placements in the academic year. Krysha was discerning ordination as elder or deacon. Her passion was for older adults and in January she left our placement for a position at Edenton Street UMC as their Interim Director of Care and Senior Adult Ministries. This is her last year at Duke Divinity School. Jacob Dye now serves a 2 point charge in the Heritage District and is going for provisional elder this year. Morgan Welch is serving in Western North Carolina at a church in Asheville and still in the process for ordination as an elder. Janice Hodges served two summers with us. Her time here helped her discern that she was called into pastoral ministry and now serves as an ordained Presbyterian minister in her home

church of Mars Hill PC USA. Imogen Rhodenhiser is an Episcopal Priest serving as Rector at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Raleigh. She is now married and has 2 children. Sarah Jo Adams-Wilson returned to her Mississippi Conference and she and her husband Jake are ordained elders serving Decatur UMC. Amy Aycock was with us for a summer and an academic year placement. Amy is an ordained elder in the Holston Conference serving Kingsley UMC. She is now married and has a daughter not yet 1 year old.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Fall Quarter Has the Theme - Belong
Class Meets in the Willing Workers Classroom at 10:00 A.M. Teachers: Tim Smith, Donald Rose McGhee

October (Unit 2) - Into the Future

October 3 - the Church's Activities

Acts 2:37-47

October 10 - the Church as One Body

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

October 17 - the Church as a Discerning Body

Revelation 3:1-6, 14-20

October 31 - Covenant Renewal

Deuteronomy 29:10-29

Spiritual Practices: Community

Keeping Holy Time Bible Study

This Thursday morning group meets to study scriptures, share stories, pray for those in need, and often ends up laughing at something in the Bible. This month we will continue in the letter to the Romans. Join us at 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays. We each bring our Bibles. A good study Bible is also a great tool as we read ahead before we jump in at 10:00 a.m. We open our time together praying for the community and end each session in prayer. On good weather days, bring your lawn chair - we will be out in the pavilion.



UMM BBQ
November 5
\$10.00
Plate or Cup
Take out only
Drive Thru

Plates include: Chopped Pork BBQ, slaw, potato salad, hush puppies, 1 piece of bread and a piece of cake

John Abbott has tickets for you to sell

All Souls Night



October 31st is All Souls Night.

Sunset is 6:18 pm.

We will begin placing candles at

5:30 p.m., gather in

the Fellowship Hall or Pavilion to offer some prayers and hot cocoa or cider. Then watch the sky light up. It is a small reminder of the light each one was to us when they walked and talked with us. We have never needed a bad weather make up day, but if needed will place them out on November 1st - All Saints Day. The week of October 24th we will go through the battery operated candles to see which ones no longer shine. If you would like to bring more lights - place them in the Fellowship Hall on the Red Table. If you haven't joined us in years past, join us this October 31st - or when it is dark - drive on by.

Senior Circle - October ???

We are hoping to gather this October 20th for Senior Circle. The data we have on the coronavirus will impact that decision. This group of elders hold wisdom and humor for all of us. Senior Circle normally meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. We have a program, sometimes games, and a shared meal. Faye Woodlief is our president and will be calling you in October to let you know if we will be gathering. Invite your friends - Kay House believed the elders in our community needed a place to gather, hear a little something and maybe a whole lot of Jesus. Jesus always seemed to be eating with someone. Where two or three are gathered, Jesus is there. Join in the fun - only restriction - over 50 years of age. Look for an announcement or phone call as to whether we are meeting or waiting out another month.



**United Methodist
Women to meet Sunday
October 17th at 3:00 p.m.
It has been a long while - new to
UMW - come and join us!**



**American Legion
Henderson Post #60
Corner of Spring and
Garnett Streets**

Chicken Plate Sale

October 22, 2021

12 noon - 2 pm

\$10.00

Take Out Only

Orders over 5 plates - delivery available

**Plate: BBQ chicken, string beans,
potatoes, bread and dessert**

**contact - Edward Woodlief
Post 60 Member
252-767-4044**

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 offering at the house or mail it to Plank Chapel, c/o Financial Secretary, Mrs. Judy Wilson, 3969 Bobbitt Road, Kittrell, NC 27544.

From our Treasurer: The Treasurer reminds Plank Chapel leaders that church financial data is available online. COVID 19 may have precluded periodic church leadership meetings but a current financial report is always available to all church members. Contact Pastor Carolyn or Scott Ritchey for login credentials.

Community Prayers

For... Phyllis Murphy, Mike Hicks, Tim Smith, David Driver, John Allen, Natasha Aiken, Alice and Ted Finch, Martha Rowland, Charlotte Lalas, Tilly Hughes, Freddie McGhee, Faye Young

For... healing and reconciliation

For... those facing medical procedures

For... medical professionals and first responders

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... Our military, families, and veterans

For... all in harms way

For... Our nation

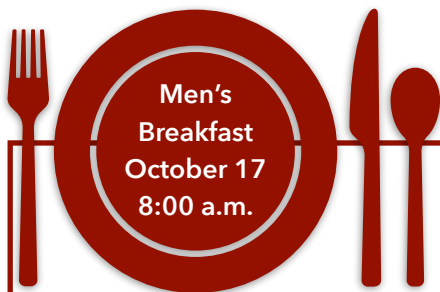
For... God's world

Sharing a post from Faithful Shepherd Catholic Church: You may have seen this, written by CS Lewis in 1948. Very applicable to today:

"In one way we think a great deal too much of the atomic bomb. 'How are we to live in an atomic age?' I am tempted to reply: 'Why, as you would have lived in the sixteenth century when the plague visited London almost every year, or as you would have lived in a Viking age when raiders from Scandinavia might land and cut your throat any night; or indeed, as you are already living in an age of cancer, an age of syphilis, an age of paralysis, an age of air raids, an age of railway accidents, an age of motor accidents.'

In other words, do not let us begin by exaggerating the novelty of our situation. Believe me, dear sir or madam, you and all whom you love were already sentenced to death before the atomic bomb was invented: and quite a high percentage of us were going to die in unpleasant ways. We had, indeed, one very great advantage over our ancestors—anesthetics; but we have that still. It is perfectly ridiculous to go about whimpering and drawing long faces because the scientists have added one more chance of painful and premature death to a world which already bristled with such chances and in which death itself was not a chance at all, but a certainty.

This is the first point to be made: and the first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things—praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts—not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds."



Breakfast, a devotion, and BBQ planning. Join us Sunday Morning!

Volunteers needed for preparing BBQ, plating to-go plates on Friday, mixing slaw and potato salad.

Contact Judy Wilson if you want to provide cakes

Want to volunteer? Contact Daryl Spencer or Thomas Beckham

Delivery Coordinator - Greg Hunt

Virtual Plank Chapel Continues

Live streaming of the 11:00 Sunday service is on Facebook. Go online to: [facebook.com/plankchapelUMC](https://www.facebook.com/plankchapelUMC) about 10:55

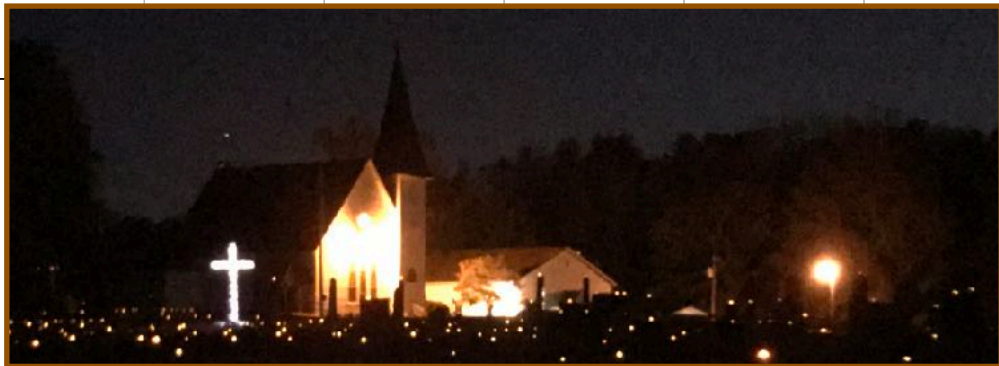
Our website: <http://www.plankchapel.org> is one of the easiest ways to connect. If you are still having trouble contact Scott Ritchey or Pastor Carolyn for assistance.



October

Cakes for the BBQ - contact Judy Wilson if you would like to provide cakes (presliced and bagged) - call her, messenger on Facebook, email her, sign up at the church, if not she will be calling you...if you have provided cakes before.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM Church Conference	27	28 7:00 PM Worship committee	29	30 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study	1	2
3 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	4	5	6	7 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study	8	9
10 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	11 Indigenous Peoples' Day Columbus Day	12	13	14 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study	15	16
17 8:00 AM UMM 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM UMM	18	19	20 10:00 AM Senior Circle	21 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study	22 12:00 PM Chicken plate lunch American Legion Henderson	23
24 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Halloween 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 5:30 PM All Souls Night	1 FirstDayAmeric...aHeritageMonth	2 Election Day	3	4 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study	5 BBQ	6



Feeding the Community

ACTS
1st Sunday of the month
Nonperishable Goods

COVID-19 and Variants: Prayerfully consider the habits we have learned: washing hands, sanitizer, safe distance, masking, and staying home when not feeling well