

CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors!



Snow Days...

One of my favorite days growing up was when school was cancelled because of snow. Mind you, in New England, that meant there was a whole lot of snow and we often had two or three days before the roads were all plowed and school would resume. Those days with feet of snow to play in were days of tunneling and fort building. We would get out our sleds and find the closest hill to slide down. The blanket of snow dampening the sounds of the world.

As I grew older, heavy snows were not the same. It meant days of work lost or going out 20 minutes earlier to shovel the driveway, deice the car, and leave it running to warm the engine and the inside. I wouldn't see the beauty around me, just the inconvenience.

This past week we had one of those beautiful southern snow days, enough snow to be beautiful yet not dangerous to drive in. I had to go to the church to take my snow day picture. As Leo and I were driving back from the Toyota dealer I was the passenger and got to witness the beauty around me. I was struck by the trees. I have a fondness for trees. In the winter deciduous trees offer us a different view of their life. We see the skeletal framework that holds the leaves, flowers, or fruit. In the winter white, that skeleton shines.

Just for a moment consider with me how our fleshly life is supported by the skeleton of our faith life. It is not often exposed for others to see. Our faith life can become arthritic or weak because we do not feed it or care for it as we should. In this pandemic time have we allowed ourselves to fall away from faith practices? We all have had some time in isolation or quarantine. Have we, like the desert fathers and mothers, used that time to get closer to God? Lent is coming in just a few days. Consider using these 40 days to ramp up your faith practices and strengthen those bones. Study your scripture, use your devotional books, spend time in prayer, do acts of mercy, seek out ways for acts of justice and in all things give God the glory. Take time to witness to the beauty of the earth around us and share with others the witness of your faith.

Praying with you,

Pastor Carolyn



Micah 6:8 (NRSV): *"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."*



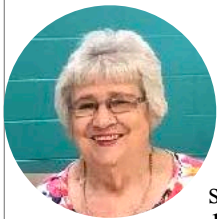
The Prayer Cross

Consider one of your lenten practices to be spending time at the prayer cross. Writing out your prayers and tying them to the cross is an embodied act of prayer. You are invited to pray at the cross or leave prayers at the cross written from home. Consider as you pray at the cross holding on to the ribbons of other's prayers, a physical act of joining in the prayers of others.

On Palm Sunday those prayers will become the palms in our sanctuary. They will be our offering of prayer and praise to the One who will make all things new. The crown of thorns will take their place on the cross until Easter morning when our flowers and palms proclaim victory over death!

Ash Wednesday ...

is February 17. The lectionary readings are: Joel 2:10-17, Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. Normally Sunday's Palms become our Wednesday ashes imposed upon our heads or hands. This year we are fasting from the ashes but not the practice of remembering that from dust we were formed and to dust we will return. There will be a time in the sanctuary for reflecting on our relationship with God. It will be a time of contemplative prayer. A short devotion and 20 minutes of communal silent prayer. The devotion will be live on Facebook beginning at 7:00 p.m.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thanks to Tim Smith we are having in person Sunday School. We will be meeting in the sanctuary starting at 10:00. All are welcome.

Our lessons for February help us to consider how we dwell with others, how faith versus works, and to gaze deeper inward to see what the Bible informs us about our Christian community.

Hope you are enjoying the lessons I put out each week.

Stay safe and God Bless
Donald Rose

Lessons for February: Unit 3 - The Hypocrites and the Holy

Feb 7 - Dealing with one another: James 2:1-13,
Feb 14 - Faith and actions: James 2:14-26, Feb

21 - Godly Fasting (1st Sunday in Lent): Isaiah 58:1-14, Feb 28 - Jesus Clears the Temple (2nd Sunday in Lent): Matthew 21:1-17

This month's spiritual practice is Fasting

Check with Donald Rose for in person classes - meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays.

Outward Witness

The next Men's Shelter meal is **February 23rd**. If you would like to participate in meal preparation, contact Susan Sears at (252) 213-0150 or email at cj7review@gmail.com. Our last shelter meal will be on March 23. There are always dates available if you or your family would like to participate.



When your pastor refuses to adjust the thermostat at church.

Gathering Restrictions

As we begin to gather for in-person meetings and

classes there are restrictions

- No more than 10 people
- Masks worn
- Keep appropriate distance apart
- Respect people’s need for more distance
- Wash hands often/hand sanitizer

where we have been planted? Journal your journey through Lent. Spend these days in disciplined prayer.

Lenten Candles of Diminishing Light

This year as each candle is extinguished, the devotion will be based on John 4:1-42. Each Sunday will focus on a different aspect of the unfolding of the story of the woman at the well.



40 Days of Lent

The 40 days of Lent are often days that we fast from food or other earthly practices that distract us from our relationship with God. The pandemic has created a form of fast from some of our faith practices. These 40 days I encourage you to a practice of examen. Spend these days with Matthew 25:31-46 or Micah 6:6-8. How are we living out our lives individually and as the Body of Christ here in Kittrell? As we come out of the fast this Easter, we will spend some time preparing for our future. What is God requiring of us? How is God calling us to make disciples, to share the Gospel, to be the body of Christ



From our Finance Chairperson: Mac Wilson

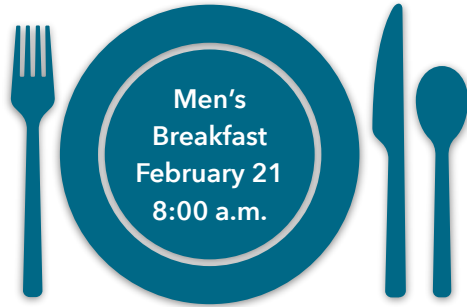
Your continued support of the ministries of Plank Chapel United Methodist Church are greatly appreciated. Thank you for what you have done and as you are able may continue to do. You are more than welcome to drop your offering at the house or mail it to Plank Chapel, c/o Financial Secretary, Mrs. Judy Wilson, 3969 Bobbitt Road, Kittrell, NC 27544.

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.



Memory Walk 2020/2021 cancelled

After prayer and consultation with John and Patricia Rogers, we made the decision to not walk this year either. Our prayer is that in 2022 we can once again walk JA Rogers Road for the families who live with Dementia and Alzheimers. In the meantime do what you can to support the families you know.



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 in the Fellowship Hall with masks)

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](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.

Addresses

- Brien, Linda and Christine Rowland
- 1932 West B Street
- Butner, NC 27509
- Charles Thompson (CT)
- PSC 562 Box 7463
- FPO Ap 96311-0075
- Mrs. Faye Young
- % Senior Citizens Home
- 2275 Ruin Creek Rd
- Henderson, NC 27537



Plank Chapel has Wi-Fi coverage throughout the facility, including a firewall to prevent inappropriate use. This includes an open (no password) "Guest" network available to everyone. There is also a secured (password required) "PCUMC" network with greater bandwidth, if needed. If our metal-clad buildings are draining your cell phone battery, try enabling a battery-saving Wi-Fi connection on your phone. Contact Scott Ritchey if you need help or experience problems.



Guess Who!



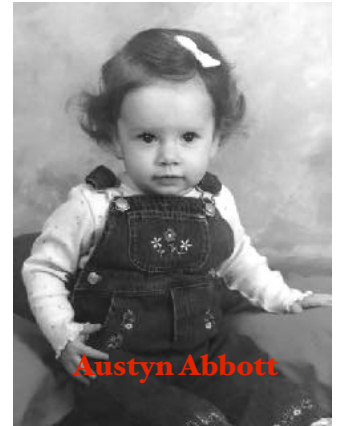
Lorraine Abbott



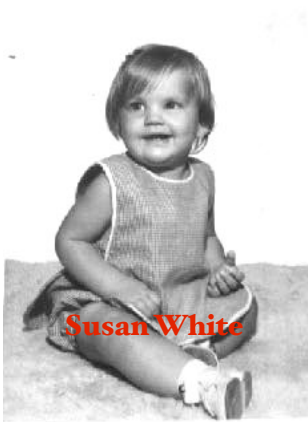
Lora Young



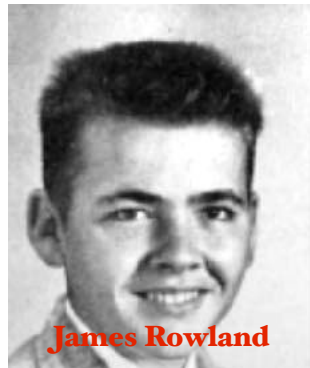
Martha Rowland



Austyn Abbott



Susan White



James Rowland



Lori Litton

How did you do?
Any Surprises?
The last page is a new set of faces...
Happy Hunting!

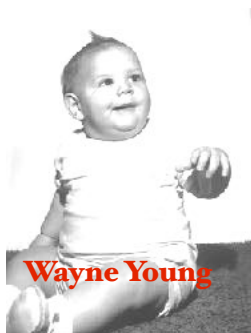


Charli Rowland

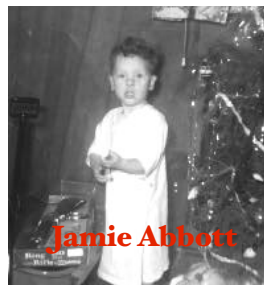


Taylor Abbott

Martha Rowland



Wayne Young



Jamie Abbott



Community Prayers

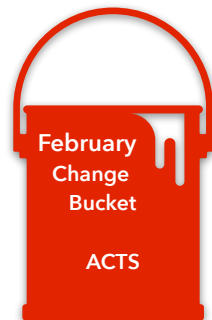
For... Patricia Rogers, Ricky Gleason, Kelcie Hardee, Faye Woodlief, Frances Woodlief, Alice and Ted Finch, Martha Rowland, Lysa Mackey, Thomas Fowler, Frank and Susan Babicz, Judy Hanson, Charlotte Lalas, Tilly Hughes, Evie Odom, James Deans, David Driver, Ruth Hailey, Freddie McGhee, Faye Young

- 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, First Responders
- 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

**Cokesbury Food
Pantry Sundays
January 31 and
February 14
Nonperishable Goods**



Places to Serve

ACTS - always looking for volunteers and for nonperishable food items

CPOH - 8 meals to go - Pastor Carolyn can check the calendar for dates when the shelter needs meals or you can at - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040f4aabad2da6fe3-mens> - our next date is February 23

Cokesbury UMC - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays to distribute food - contact Susan Sears and she can share when and where volunteers most needed

We are the hands and feet of Christ



Something new in our education wing. We recently purchased the AED through a wellness

grant. Training on how to use our AED will happen this spring.

