

CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors!

March Madness

This will not be a devotion about basketball, but a reflection on the year behind us and the one before us. It was March 8, 2020. Patricia Rogers was on the clavino, the choir was in the loft singing “Dwelling in Beulah Land” and we were preparing for the coming Easter season. Then it was like a whole stop. It wasn’t a snow day or a hurricane, it was a virus that changed how we worshipped and gathered. March 15, 2020 we began Facebook live. Many of us thinking this would be a short season of interruption. Easter was very different and many other celebrations have been reimagined.

We are all so ready for a new day and the old ways. We do not know what the future will hold, but we do know who holds the future. I cannot tell you when the choir will return to the choir loft or when it really is safe to be unmasked when indoors. I do know our doors are open for worship. Those who wish to be in the sanctuary at 11:00 a.m. you are most welcome. It is different, there is a camera in the aisle, music is played through the sound system and people sit separated by safe distances.

In the John passage where Jesus meets the Samaritan woman, she asks him about worship. She wants to know the right place to worship. ²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:21-24)

Jesus’ words remind us that worship is not restricted to a place or a particular order. Worship is when the gathered community worship in spirit and truth. It will be wonderful when we can gather together again and all feel safe in person, until then we gather, just a bit scattered, some in person, some online and sometimes in our pj’s. One of the joys is to know that we are reaching lives close to home and far beyond our county. Our body of Christ has expanded over these months. God is with us and still in control. We are His church and are called to be the witness to the world of His love. As we move through this March may we begin to plan for the future God has for us.

Praying with you,

Pastor Carolyn

Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV): *“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.”*

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!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are meeting each Sunday in the sanctuary at 10:00. Thanks to Tim Smith for teaching the class. The theme for March is "Holy". The

unit invites us to think about what it means to be the people of God and to pursue holy living. It helps us define holiness and how holiness is nourished. The Lenten season is an appropriate time to think about holiness.

Stay safe and God Bless,
Donald Rose

Holy Living

Spiritual Practice: Fasting

Scriptures: Leviticus 19:1-37; 1 Peter 2:1-10; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Matthew 6:5-18

Outward Witness

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

The generosity towards Zeb Vance was abundant. Mrs. Johnson believes we have provided enough

for the children to make it through this year. Each time a need has been identified, the Plank Chapel family has responded. Thanks be to God for all you do for the community!



Need your help.

I am working on the Military Records for Plank Chapel. Hilma Smith did a great job of listing past and present people that have served in the military from Plank Chapel and Bobbitt. I am trying to complete her list. If you or a family member served in the military since World War II and you don't know if their name has been listed, please call me so that they will be listed. I will also need the branch of service they served in. We are great full for those who have served our country and do not wish to leave anyone out. You may call me at 252-438-8645. If I do not answer please leave the information on my answering machine. I also would welcome any suggestions. Thanks for your help.

Donald Rose McGhee

**Church Council - March 21st**

The Church Council will meet on **March 21st at 3:00 p.m.** This meeting will be both in person and on Zoom. The zoom invitation will go out the night before. We will be discussing what level of safety practices we need in place to have meetings and events in the Fellowship Hall. Church Council members for 2021 include: Chairperson, Church Council: Mike Raney (21) Rev. Dr. Carolyn Roy, Tim Smith (22), Mac Wilson (21), Todd Wilson (21), Susan Sears (21), Sally Coghill (21), Lori Litton (21), Peggy Hernandez, Lorraine Abbott, Judy Wilson, Darlene Raney, Scott Ritchey, Thomas Beckham, Donald Rose McGhee, Avery Thomas (21)

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.

**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.



Easter Traditions - UWM Easter Lilies - Order your Easter Lilies by **March 21st**. Cost \$11.00 per lily. Contact Judy Wilson with your request in honor of or in memory of loved ones.



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.



Easter Flowers - On Easter morning between Sunrise and 11 a.m. we adorn the cross in front of the sanctuary with Palms from the Sunday before and with flowers from our gardens.

Feeling overwhelmed or stressed ?

HOPE4NC Helpline -- 1-855-587-3463. This is a 24/7 Helpline for children, youth, and adults with issues of feeling alone, irritable, can't sleep, fears of health, increased use of alcohol / tobacco / drugs, feeling stuck, difficulty concentrating, etc.

Holy Week Events

March 28 - Palm/Passion Sunday

April 1 - 7:00 p.m. Holy Thursday @ Union Chapel UMC - in person only

April 2 - 7:00 p.m. - Tenebrae - in person and Facebook Live

Easter - April 4 - 6:45 a.m. - in person and Facebook Live - outside weather permitting

Easter - April 4 - 11:00 a.m. - Worship with communion - in person and Facebook Live

United Methodist Women to meet Sunday March 28 at 3:00 p.m. It has been a long while - new to UMW - come and join us!



Sunday School and Worship are in person

As we begin to gather for in-person meetings and

classes there are restrictions

- Wear Masks
- Keep appropriate distance apart
- Respect people's need for more distance
- Wash hands often/hand sanitizer
- If not feeling well - stay home/stay safe



Guess Who!

Donald Rose Mitchell McGhee



Midge Smith



Amy Smith



Karin Driver



Tim Smith

Randy Rowland



Ryan Rowland



Rudy Rowland

Daylight Savings Begins

Community Prayers

For... Corey Henderson, Charles, Bryant and Janet Bobbitt, Brent Montgomery, Family of Amanda Brame, Patricia and John Rogers, Ricky Gleason, Kelcie Hardee, 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



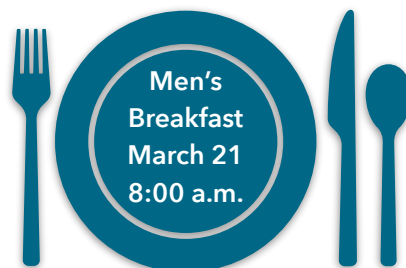
Robeson County Church & Community Center Lumberton (#791742)

An ecumenical ministry in a multicultural community which is designed to help local churches meet emergency needs, literacy tutoring for children and adults, home repairs and building new homes. Speakers are available upon request.

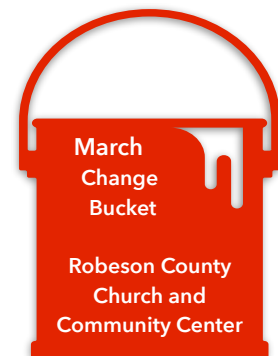
Contact – Greg Maynor Phone: 910-738-5204 Web: robesonchurchandcommunitycenter.org

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)



Feeding the Community



Cokesbury Food Pantry Sundays

February 28 and March 14

Nonperishable Goods