



# CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors!

## A Future with Hope

Planning is something we all do. Having worked with the United Methodist Men, I can assure you when it comes to their BBQ, they make plans. Worship requires plans. Sunday School requires plans. Moving into our future requires plans. This past year has taught us that sometimes the best plans we have ever made are set aside because life happens. Then we scramble to make new plans, to make sense out of the chaos that is before us. This past year we may have struggled to have hope for our future. Jeremiah reminds us that God has plans. Our task is to align our plans with God's. That is not an easy task as God does not always reveal those plans.

This I do know, God's plan for the salvation of the world is unfolding. It is Easter that boldly proclaims God's victory and love for God's world. Easter is just days away. Last year our celebrations were a bit different, the pews were empty, choir loft vacant, yet Easter still came and we remembered on Resurrection Sunday that death was arrested and Jesus was alive.

As we head towards that glorious celebration this year, I am reminded of sunrises. I wait in the darkness for the black to become gray and then slowly streaks of color begin to lighten the sky, each moment the sky changes color and with each breathe the world gets brighter until the sun breaks the horizon and light shines dispersing the darkness. We are in the that twilight hour. The past year has had moments that are like bright stars in the midst of a canopy of blackness and we knew joy and peace, yet death appeared to have dominion as we heard the numbers rise. Close friends and loved ones lost to us, but not all because of a virus that was making national news. Now with Easter days away we are seeing opportunities to once again gather and celebrate love, our spirits are lifting like the dawning sun that dissipates the darkness.

What does that mean for our future as a body of Christ? We enter into our future as a new creation, clothed in the love of God. We get to plan for our future with the reality of the wilderness wandering of a pandemic year. We have learned that human touch is important to our well being. We have learned that we can still reach out to the community in love to answer needs. We have learned that God is still in control and love will win. Our planning begins with prayer. As we wave palms and enter into Holy Week, may our prayers be for God's vision of this community. We know critical to our life of faith is gathering to worship and study so that the world does not dictate our plans. Fear has gripped the world and maybe our own hearts. The angels remind us continually, "Do not fear." We know also that our extended communities and families have struggled this past year. As we plan, may we marry our old traditions with what we have learned this year and may God show us how we can be the place of healing and hope for all. Let us emerge from the tomb of fear and share with the community the gospel message of salvation, and sometimes use words. Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

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)

## Church Council Updates

The Church Council met on Sunday, March 21st at 3:00 p.m. This quarterly meeting held normal areas of business and then moved into questions about further opening our church and Fellowship Hall. These are a few of the topics and decisions:

- ◆ Trustees working on roof repairs
- ◆ Worship to continue both virtual and in person; hymnals and Bibles are back in the pews
  - ◆ No choir until 2022
  - ◆ Bells a possibility
  - ◆ Maintain safe practices
- ◆ Sunday School to continue in the sanctuary with video recorded for those who are safer at home
- ◆ Keeping Holy Time Bible Study will resume, outdoors when weather permits and in the Fellowship Hall when inclement weather
- ◆ Awakenings will be in person only - 30 minutes - Pavilion when weather permits
- ◆ Senior Circle will wait until September to resume meeting
- ◆ Children's activities: Looking towards Summer for a Saturday School - outdoors over 4 Saturdays - Danielle Nugent and Karin Driver to be contacted and help organize
- ◆ Committees to start meeting again on a quarterly basis - **planning begins**
- ◆ Field Education Student requested for the summer - in person only - may not receive one if one is not available for in person
- ◆ Pastor Carolyn requested to return for another year.

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.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are now back in person for Sunday School and meeting in the sanctuary. Tim Smith is our teacher. If you do not wish to attend in person you may watch the recorded lesson on Plank Chapel's YouTube channel later. Our lessons for April will focus on how we can be New in Christ. I also send out Sunday School Thoughts each Sunday on Pastor Carolyn's Sunday Service email. We welcome you to join us.



Stay safe and God Bless,  
Donald Rose

### Holy Living

Spiritual Practice: Sabbath  
Scriptures: Luke 24:13-35, 2 Corinthians 5:17, 2 Corinthians 5:11-21, Ephesians 4:21-32, 2 Corinthians 4:7-20



## 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



*Holy Week Events*

March 28 - Palm/Passion Sunday

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

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



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.



**Keeping Holy Time Bible Study**

On April 1st we will resume our in-person Bible Study. It is held on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. and runs to 11:30 a.m. On good weather days we will meet in the Pavilion (bring your own chair for comfort). Other days we will be in the Fellowship Hall. It has been a long time since our last study, so we will open the book of Daniel.



**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.

**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.

## Rebuilding Hope: SOS Special Edition: New Name, New Look for 2021 Event

SOS (Servants on Site) will have a new name and look for this year.

After seven consecutive summers, RHI's signature week-long event for youth was stopped in 2020 by the coronavirus pandemic. A new approach will allow service to our communities to continue. SOS Special Edition is the new name. The new look omits large groups in housing, meals and worship.

SOS Special Edition will be conducted on a group- by-group basis. A church or organization is free to bring a group and work on a project during a given week. The group will stay together. In past years, members of groups were mingled so youths could get to know participants from other areas of the state and nation.

Each group may choose its own theme. Rather than the large corporate gatherings for worship, the smaller groups may conduct their own services.

The church or group partnering with a project will provide meals.

The fee for the SOS Special Edition week is \$25.

### How to Register Your Group

To register a group, send an email message to RHI coordinator Randolph Wilson. The email address for RHI is [rwilson@rebuildinghopeinc.org](mailto:rwilson@rebuildinghopeinc.org).

Weeks available extend from June 21-25 through Aug. 23-27. Groups will be asked for their first and second choices of weeks to attend.

RHI will provide projects, materials and any leader-ship needed. Each project — that includes the homeowner and crew — will be supported by a local church partner.

“Rebuilding Homes, Lives and Hearts” is the mission to which God has called RHI. With humble hearts, volunteers strive daily to be faithful to that calling.

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.

### Special Offering in April

Native American Ministries  
Sunday

April 18, 2021. This offering is collected the third Sunday of Easter and funds urban ministries with Native Americans, scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist seminaries and annual conference Native American ministries.



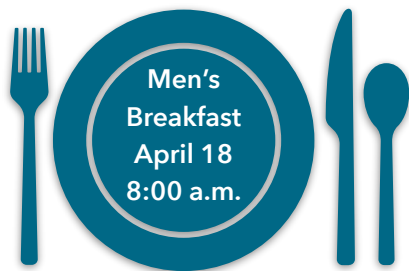
United Methodist  
Women to meet Sunday  
March 28 at 3:00 p.m.  
It has been a long while - new to  
UMW - come and join us!

# Community Prayers

For... Corey Henderson, Charles, Bryant and Janet Bobbitt, Patricia and John Rogers, Ricky Gleason, Alice and Ted Finch, Martha Rowland, Lysa Mackey, Thomas Fowler, Frank and Susan Babicz, Judy Hanson, Charlotte Lalas, Tilly Hughes, 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

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)

## Easter Hope

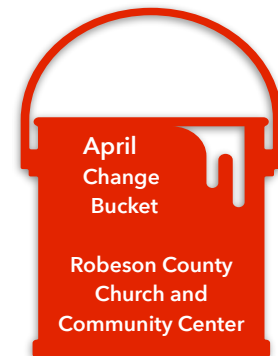
It is the old, old story  
Yet each year comes anew  
The gift of salvation  
God's promise made true  
If I were Mary at the tomb  
Weeping for my friend  
My tears would turn to laughter  
When I heard his voice again!

### He is Lord

"He is Lord, He is Lord!  
He is risen from the dead  
And he is Lord!"

Praying for the day that:  
"Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord.!"

*Philippians 2:9-11, Tom Fetteke (1986)*



Feeding the Community

## Cokesbury Food Pantry Sundays

April 4 and 18  
Nonperishable Goods