

# CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors!

## May Challenges

Leo and I planted too early again. We planted later than last year because we got caught by frost. This year I learned the local rule of thumb, “nothing in the ground before May 1.” Learned after we had planted. So we covered and prayed we would not lose what we planted. The good warm spring weather of April just beckoned us to dig deep into the earth and plant and seed and prepare for new life and growth. In our eagerness we may have lost some plants to the frost. We will plant again in the places of loss because we have hope in the harvest and trust in God to bring the sun and the rain. We will do the work of pruning and weeding and waiting.

As we enter May and begin opening our doors for classes and events, we will have challenges. How do we worship and maintain safety for all? What classes or groups should we allow in? Is it too soon for some? How can we be the church when what we did, we cannot do? These challenges are opportunities to reimagine what may be possible. In this edition there is a “What if?” corner and an “Even if” corner. I encourage you to consider your own “what ifs” for yourself and for the family of God that worships at Plank Chapel UMC. I also encourage you to consider your “even ifs.” How is your faith life challenged by the world. When do you need to tell the world or maybe someone close to you, “even if..”

Where do we begin? The Children’s ministry team is considering a Saturday School this summer. Instead of a week long VBS they want to create an outdoor camp in our back yard and offer games, crafts, and Bible lessons. The United Methodist Men are considering ways to share our famous BBQ that may surprise us. Our work with youth will have a fresh start with a mission effort this summer and adults are invited to join us. We have young adults in our area, what if they found a welcoming place of worship during the week?

What if we reconfigured our leadership? The Book of Discipline allows for imaginative ways to model leadership. How can we use the giftedness of our body to lead others to Jesus? The Nominations and Leadership meets on April 25 at 3:00 p.m. and we will explore the what if question.

The pandemic brought many challenges to God’s people and church just like mid April frosts bring to novice gardeners. What lessons I have learned through gardening and early planting is that there is always something new to be discovered. There is no one size fits all for our gardens. Each plant has its favorite temperature, amount of water or sunlight, and some get rather annoyed when planted near other plants. There are successes and failures each season, but there is hope in the seed and wisdom that came from the lessons learned. The weather is not our only teacher, there are mentors who have gardened for

years who give great advice, when I listen. It is the same for God's people and church. There is nothing that God cannot overcome and where God has planted a church it will remain standing regardless of winds or frosts or pandemics. The people of God who are faithful and listen for God's voice to call them will find a way to be the church. It is not about a building, it is about a people.

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)



## Field Education Student Summer 2021

Hello, my name is Madison Long and I am a second year Duke Divinity Student. I am from Marietta, Georgia and am currently pursuing ordination in the United Methodist Church. I hope to be a pastor in a few years and feel most at home in the local church. In my free time, I enjoy fostering cats, running, and enjoying delicious food. If anyone has recommendations

of food in the area, I would absolutely love that.

I graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Psychology and English, which fueled my passion for writing and understanding the way our minds work. However, I did not know what I should do with my life. Then one night, I had a spiritual encounter with God which made me realize I am called into ministry. I see hope in the Church and am in awe of the God that is present in the hectic world we live in. I am very excited to be a part of the Plank Chapel UMC community this summer and can't wait to meet everyone!

*Madison will be with us in person this summer. Her last placement was in the hospital as a chaplain. Her plan is to dive deep into the work of the local church. Her first Sunday with us will be May 30th. This ministry of mentoring field education students provides space and time for each to learn more about their calling. Thank you for serving in this vital ministry.*

### Virtual Plank Chapel

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.

### 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



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is being held in the church sanctuary each Sunday morning at 10:00. It is being taught by Tim Smith. We welcome all our members to attend and any new people who would like to attend Sunday School. Our lessons for May are on God being Revealed.

Stay safe and God Bless,  
Donald Rose

### May - God Revealed

This five-lesson unit explores some of the ways God has revealed God's self in the biblical account. These include self-declaration, quietness, through Jesus, visions, and love. God is not limited to these avenues of expression, of course, but the lessons helps us grasp some of the scope of the ways God comes to us.

Spiritual Practices: Praise, thanksgiving, and song

Scriptures: Exodus 33:12-23; 34:5-8; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Luke 9:28-36; Daniel 7:1-14; 1 John 4:7-21

### Hospitality

Thank you to those who helped with hospitality after James Deans Memorial Service. It is a pleasure to assist a family when we can be of service. It is our way of showing we care.



### Keeping Holy Time Bible Study

We are finishing Daniel on May 6th and venturing into another minor prophet, Hosea. The prophets of the Old Testament have much to say to the church today. 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. What do you know about Hosea?

## Rebuilding Hope: SOS Special Edition: June 20-26

**We will be replacing roofs and building wheelchair ramps, as our volunteer resources allow.**

- **This is NOT just for students**
- People are needed to tear off roof and replace roof
- People are needed on the ground to gather up and dispose of shingles/trash
- People are needed to help build wheelchair ramps
- People are needed to provide food and refreshments for our teams
- People are needed to do outreach in community surrounding the work site
- People are needed to help with impromptu children activities
- Most of all, pray for the work - before, during and after these projects

•Cost is \$25.00 per person to cover the cost of the SOS t-shirt and a few supplies

**Consider joining our team - a sign up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall and on the table in the sanctuary or email or text Pastor Carolyn!**

We will have worship on Sunday night before the work - mid week and then at the end of the work - invite friends to join in the work

**What  
if  
Corner**

- What if we doubled our community impact?
- What if we customized our worship experience?
- What if we regularly delighted and surprised members and visitors?
- What if we could reinvent our youth program?
- What if we opened our doors for a Senior Center?
- What if we had weekly community meals?



The United Methodist Men - meet 3rd Sunday of the Month at 8:00 a.m. If you have wondered - what these men do - who are they - can I join? Come Sunday, May 16th and find out! This year the men are asking new questions - what do we want to do as a group, to what purpose is the money we raise, how can we be a force in the community for good, and what exactly is in the recipe for the BBQ sauce.

John Abbott says if you will call ahead and share your biscuit preference, he will try to get it for you...if you do



**United Methodist Women to meet Sunday May 16 at 3:00 p.m. It has been a long while - new to UMW - come and join us!**

**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.

not call him, there might not be a biscuit for you.

What have they done in the past? Scholarships for our youth

members going to college, ramps for members homes, supplies for Zeb Vance Elementary, gifts for Zeb Vance families at Christmas supplies for the church, financial support to Community Partners of Hope; these men work to respond to the needs before us. Come join us on May 16th!

In our Daniel reading, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego told King Nebuchadnezzar “**Even if** our God does not save us from the furnace, we will not renounce our God.”

- Even if my prayers are not answered as I like, I will still believe.
- Even if fear and hate cause me harm, I will still love.
- Even if I am not forgiven, I will forgive.
- What is your “even if...”?

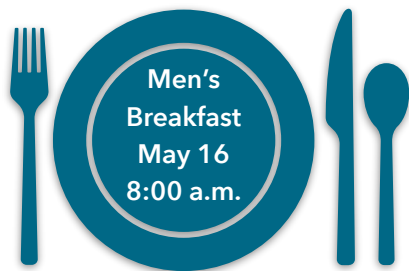
**Even  
if  
Corner**

## Community Prayers

For... Family of James Deans, Mark Litton, Kay Thompson, Arvelle Abbott, Patricia and John Rogers, Ricky Gleason, Alice and Ted Finch, Martha Rowland, Thomas Fowler, Frank and Susan Babicz, Charlotte Lalas, Tilly Hughes, 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. John Abbott will order your favorite biscuit if you call him to tell him!

### Mother's Day May 9

Mother's Day is a holiday honoring motherhood that is observed in different forms throughout the world. The American incarnation of Mother's Day was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official U.S. holiday in 1914. Jarvis would later denounce the holiday's commercialization and spent the latter part of her life trying to remove it from the calendar. While dates and celebrations vary, Mother's Day traditionally involves presenting moms with flowers, cards and other gifts.

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/mothers-day>

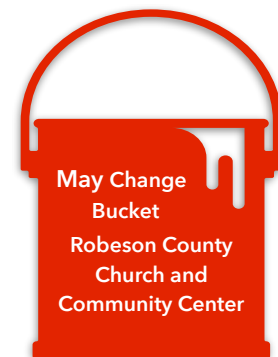
#### ANNA JARVIS AND 500 WHITE CARNATIONS

Shortly after her mother's death, Anna organized a memorial at her mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia. During the service, she passed out 500 white carnations (her mother's favorite flower) to all the mothers in attendance.

<https://herebydesign.net/why-carnations-are-the-official-mothers-day-flower/>



Feeding the Community



Cokesbury Food Pantry Sundays

May 2 and 16  
Nonperishable Goods