

CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors!

Scriptures for Summertime Fun!

As a young girl, my favorite thing to do in the summer was read. I would stay up until dawn just to finish a novel. I completely understand people who binge watch TV series as I could not put a book down until I finished it. This summer what if we binge read the Bible! Start with Genesis and head to the end. Have an accountability partner to check on your reading. There are wonderful stories in the Old Testament of heroes of the faith. When Keeping Holy Time Bible Study read the book of Daniel, I remembered the fiery furnace, but I had forgotten their faithfulness before they went in. The “even if” statement has stayed with me all May. To be honest, I now have a tee shirt that says, “..... even if” So much in life challenges us in our faith walk with the Lord. Do we compromise with the culture so that we are not targeted for our faith?

Genesis is filled with family drama that show us God’s faithfulness as well as faithful human responses. The Sunday School lessons for the summer quarter begin with a focus on Joseph’s story. We have children’s musicals and adult musicals of this man and the gift of a coat. His story involves premeditated murder plans, jealousy, divine gifts of interpreting dreams, betrayal, famine, scheming men and women, power plays, love and loyalty, and then we come to the place of reconciliation and redemption. Each turn in the story we find people of faith, people of compassion, and an Egyptian leader unafraid of a Jewish man who gives him keys to the kingdom. Very exciting summer reading.

There were women in the Old Testament stories that gave me role models to follow. Miriam who led with her brothers Aaron and Moses was the first who stuck out for me. When she struck her tambourine so that the people would join her in singing and dancing their praise for God, I knew my soulmate. I often find myself dancing when I sing praises to God. Ruth’s story of fidelity to Naomi reminded me of my own commitment to follow Leo wherever the Marine Corps sent us. Hannah and Esther are two more women with faithful hearts. There are some other women in the Old Testament that God used, but their stories are slightly different. Have fun discovering them this summer.

This is my prayer: you will either post on Plank Chapel’s Facebook page your reading discoveries or send me emails or texts about how your reading is impacting your life of faith or you will offer a witness in worship whether in comments on line or in person. There will be a space open for witnessing to our summer reading.

We do not know what plans the Lord has for us in the coming year. As we wait, let us prepare our heart and minds for the work that God puts before us. May your summer be filled with prayer and study.

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)



Madison Long

Growing up I always told people my favorite bible verse was Joshua 1:8 which says “Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” My small Christian school in Georgia taught us to make that verse a way of life. However, the more I read the Bible, the more questions I had. 16 year old me did not understand why Jesus had to die a horrible death. Every time I asked my parents, they would tell me it was for our sins and out of love. I wondered, why did that love have to be so painful? There had to be another option, right? Then came the shame that God died because of how horribly sinful I was. I was to repent and even that would never be good enough. So, I went to college, and decided if I would never be good enough then I wouldn’t try. I still believed in God with my whole heart, but I rarely prayed, never read my Bible, and definitely did not go to church. Then while I was walking down a street to class, I passed by a building with the United Methodist symbol and decided to walk in. There I met an amazing campus minister, who answered all my questions with abounding honesty and love. I learned about the Jesus that loves us and unites with us in our pain. The Jesus that desperately wants to be in communion with us, protect us, and even die for us. This Jesus is the one I will love until I die even through the ups and down of life.

So now, as I have grown in my faith, my new favorite verse is Mary’s song which I will attach below. It encompasses the Jesus that I hope everyone will be able to see in this lifetime. God became flesh taking on our pain and sitting with us in true empathy. If we could just harness a fraction of that empathy the Church could be a better place.

Luke 1:46-56

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

June 6, 2021 - Children's Church Resumes!

This summer our children will be returning to the sanctuary and to children's church. They will begin to learn these stories we have come to love. Late summer we will start our Saturday School for VBS.

"Compassion Camp" will explore Bible stories about compassion, have crafts, songs and activities to help our young students learn skills to share the love of Christ in a world that needs compassion. I am so excited to return some stuffed friends to

their human companions and to spend Saturdays with our leaders and children.



Virtual Plank Chapel Continues

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 consider the following:

Masks preferred but not required

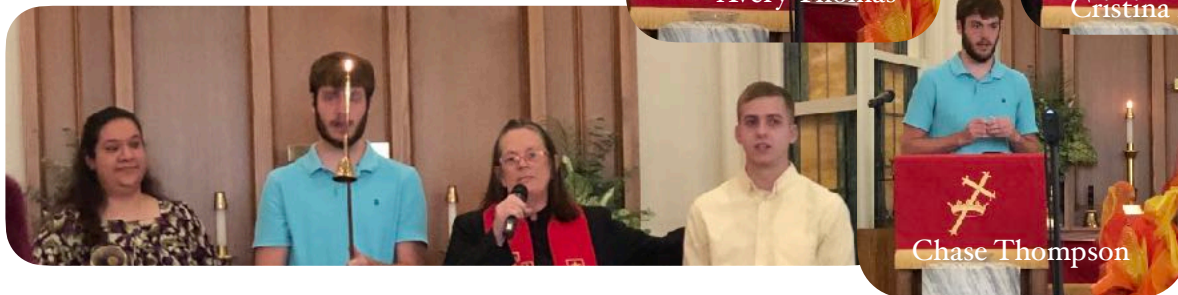
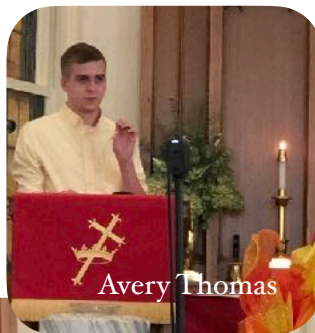
Keep appropriate distance apart

Respect people's need for more distance

Wash hands often/hand sanitizer

If not feeling well stay home/stay safe

Church Council to meet June 27 3:00 p.m.



2021 High School Graduates



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

It is a new quarter - Respond!

June (Unit 1) - Intended for Good

- 6 - Sibling Rivalry Writ Large
- 13 - In the Master's House
- 20 - What Dreams May Come
- 27 - Grace Abounds

Spiritual Practices: Forgiveness

Scriptures: Genesis 37:5-28, Genesis 39:1-21, Genesis 41:1-16, 25-32, Genesis 45:1-15

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 be in the book of Acts. 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.



United Methodist Women to meet Sunday June 20 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.



Our college Graduates:
Matthew Denton,
Megan Finch,
Morgan Oettinger Owen

Community Prayers

For... John Allen, Kay Thompson, Arvelle Abbott, Patricia and John Rogers, Alice and Ted Finch, Martha Rowland, Thomas Fowler, 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... Our military, families, and veterans
For... all in harms way
For... Our nation
For... God's world

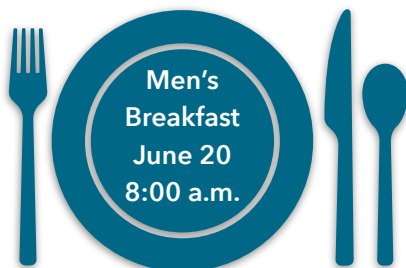


This year we receive as our Field Education Student fondly called our Pastoral Intern Madison Long

Jacob Dye graduated this year serving Gray Rock UMC and Bethel UMC

Morgan Welch graduated this year and is serving as an Associate in Asheville and Storyteller

Janice Hodges will graduate in 2022 and is going to be serving her home church Mars Hill UPC (United Presbyterian Church) where she will be ordained



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



Feeding the Community

Cokesbury Food Pantry Sundays

**June 13 and 27
Nonperishable Goods**

Team Meeting June 6 - 7:00 p.m.
in person and zoom

Rebuilding Hope: SOS Special Edition: June 20-26

We will be replacing a roof in Kittrell

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 provide food and refreshments for our team
- 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
- Adults over 21 need a background check - if you have had one recently (within 5 years) just need agency name and year received. Clerk of Courts office can provide you one \$25.00

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



**Annual
Conference
2021
June 16-18**

“The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.”

- Isaiah 58:11

June 16, 10 am

Virtual Clergy Session

June 16, 12 pm

Virtual Laity Session

June 17, 10 am

Virtual AC Session

June 18

Ordination at Fuquay-Varina UMC

This strong promise of God will be the scriptural focus for the 2021 Annual Conference Session. We acknowledge the parched places in our lives, in our nation, and our world. We are disappointed that pandemic projections prevent safe indoor gatherings in June. However, we are God’s people, bound together, trusting God’s promises and provision.

Bishop Hope Morgan Ward retires in September
We will receive Bishop Leonard Fairley as he serves both the Kentucky Conference and the North Carolina Conference until the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference can meet in 2022 and elect bishops

NC CONFERENCE UMW VIRTUAL Mission u 2021 • July 22-24

NC Conference Mission u is excited to offer virtual mission study opportunities at the 2021 Mission u where members prepare for faithful living and action by engaging in transformative educational experiences. Mission u is centered around curricula that are designed to motivate, inform, and enrich our commitment to global ministry. <https://districts.nccumc.org/files/2021/04/2021-Mu-flyer-FINAL-R.pdf>



Summertime Reading List

The NC Conference Media Center recommends the following books in our collection as good selections for a book club format – whether you have an ongoing book club or want to try starting a book club over the summer. We have books on current issues, that are inspirational, memoirs, that are for women (but not *only* for women), and some books that bring a little fun to your group. Links work in the online copy.

Current Issues

[God and the Pandemic: A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and Its Aftermath](#) by N. T. Wright.

Another good book along these same lines is [Virus as a Summons to Faith: Biblical Reflections in a Time of Loss, Grief, and Uncertainty](#) by Walter Brueggemann.

[Becoming All Things: How Small Changes Lead to Lasting Connections Across Cultures](#) by Michelle Ami Reyes.

[The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible, and the Journey to Belong](#) by Karen González.

[The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East](#) by Sandy Tolan.

Inspirational

[The Gospel for the Person Who Has Everything](#) by Will Willimon.

[Ladder to the Light: An Indigenous Elder's Meditations on Hope and Courage](#) by Steven Charleston.

[Reforesting Faith: What Trees Teach Us About the Nature of God and His Love for Us](#) by Matthew Sleeth.

[Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again](#) by Rachel Held Evans.

[Spoken Into Being: Divine Encounters Through Story](#) by Michael E. Williams.

[Punching Holes in the Dark: Living in the Light of the World](#) by Robert Benson.

Memoir

[How Cancer Cured Me: Healing Brokenness and Disease](#) by David Gira. View our interview with the author.

[Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God](#) by Kaitlin B. Curtice.

[On Pills and Needles: The Relentless Fight to Save My Son from Opioid Addiction](#) by Rick Van Warner.

[Costly Grace: An Evangelical Minister's Rediscovery of Faith, Hope and Love](#) by Rob Schenck.

[All the Colors We Will See: Reflections on Barriers, Brokenness, and Finding Our Way](#) by Patrice Gopo.

[Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion](#) by Gregory Boyle.

For Women (but not *only* for women)

[Mothers in Israel: Methodist Beginnings Through the Eyes of Women](#) by Donna L. Fowler-Marchant. View this [recorded webinar](#) with the author.

[Nevertheless: American Methodists and Women's Rights](#) by Ashley Boggan Dreff.

[Women Rise Up: Sacred Stories of Resistance for Today's Revolution](#) by Katey Zeh.

[Laughing at the Devil: Seeing the World with Julian of Norwich](#) by Amy Laura Hall.

[Of Mess and Moxie: Wrangling Delight Out of This Wild and Glorious Life](#) by Jen Hatmaker.

[Unsqueezed: Springing Free from Skinny Jeans, Nose Jobs, Highlights and Stilettos](#) by Margot Starbuck.

Have some fun!

[The Epicenter](#) by Jim Martin.

[What Would Granny Say? And Other Somewhat Embellished Memories](#) by Tony Rowell.

[Submitting to Be More Vile: The Illustrated Adventures of John & Charles Wesley](#) by Charlie Baber.

[Chasing Francis: A Pilgrim's Tale](#) by Ian Morgan Cron.

[Thin Blue Smoke](#) by Doug Worgul.

[The Parables of Dr. Seuss](#) by Robert L. Short.

Request These Resources

These resources can be [borrowed](#) for free by anyone involved with a United Methodist Church in the North Carolina Conference. We will mail them to your home! All you need to do is fill out the [Resource Request Form](#). <https://nccumc.org/mediacenter/>