

# CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors!



## Madison Long

This week, as a church, we had the privilege to work with the organization Rebuilding Hope. Our project for the week was to build a new roof, Monday through Friday. When I pondered what to write about the experience, two words came to mind, patience, and love. Patience is a virtue I struggle with because my mind is constantly running before my body can catch up. I sprung up on the roof and had one mission: complete

as much as I could. However, as the day went on my arms started to shake but my head said keep working, just a little more. Thankfully, some wonderful women told me to come down and take a break. In that moment, as I sunk it to a wonderfully comfy chair, I learned a powerful lesson about patience. I always thought patience was like fishing, waiting around until you catch something. But patience is bigger than that, it is vital for us and is an essential element of love. Patience causes us to pause the anxieties and fears, and see the world around us. It causes us to pay attention to our bodies and hold them with care. Patience also leads to a peace that God desires for us to have. Some wise women that day told me to have peace rooted in passion. Passion is what drives us but must be rooted in love and patience. If our passion is rooted in anxiety and fear, we will burn out. My arms started to shake, and I was tired, even if the fears of not being good enough continued to push me forward. We are not meant to take on all the struggles of this world. We are good enough in God's eyes without drowning ourselves in work that we are physically and emotionally unable to handle. This now leads to the second word, love. God did not make us to be alone, but rather in community. I did not realize I needed a break until I was told. The entire roofing project was a group effort and could not be accomplished without each and every person there. I saw God's love in the laughter, fellowship, and prayer. Connecting with others in love is the very thing God calls us to do but sometimes we need a little help getting there. So have patience because it is one of the most loving things you can do for yourself. Take a deep breathe and know the God that created everything loves you. Below is a prayer from Nadia Bolz Weber:



“Dear God, help us know when our work is done. Help us rest when we should. Help us reach out and serve when we can. Help us remember to check on our strong friends. Help us to be kinder toward those who can't do as much as we can. Help us do the next right thing. And Lord, help us not forget the ice cream when we go to the grocery store next. Amen.

## A New Thing

*“But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. <sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and*

*through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you...<sup>18</sup>Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. <sup>19</sup>I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:1-2, 18-19a NRSV)*

In this past year so much has passed away. We remember and long for the old things. God has asked us to trust God with the new thing God is doing in our lives, in our communities, and in the world.

June held a couple of new things. We had a virtual annual conference and the lay members from Union Chapel UMC and Plank Chapel UMC gathered in our Fellowship Hall. Over the course of the day we began to long for the former things of gathering in person. The importance of gathering as community continues to be the learning edge of the coronavirus outbreak. We have learned how critical it is for human touch and how isolation has an unhealthy side effect. Isaiah reminds us that as we have passed through the waters of isolation, God has been with us. So many out in our communities may now be uncertain how to reconnect and re-engage. "It is a risky business going out our front doors." A paraphrase of the wizard Gandalf's words to Frodo when Frodo must decide to leave the safety of his home to be part of a group who will save the world in Tolkien's novel, The Lord of the Rings. At virtual Annual Conference we learned of churches and groups who engaged in that risky business to feed the hungry and offer sanctuary and places for COVID-19 clinics. What risks will we take for the sake of the Gospel? Are we ready to go out our doors to find where we can serve a need?



One risk we took recently was another new thing we did. We joined Rebuilding Hope in a mission project called Servants on Site, Special Edition. In our crew were servants from Plank Chapel UMC, Rehoboth UMC, Trinity UMC (Louisburg), and Fuller Chapel Christian Church. We roofed Mrs. Diane Bullock's home. Two of the youth from B.A.S.I.C. worked with the adults and carried their weight. For me, my heart overflowed with joy as I watched the adults mentor and teach the young men. This week gave me hope and restored my spirit regardless of how tired my physical body was from the heat. The men gave them power tools and trust as well as guided instructions that were firm yet gentle. Mrs. Bullock may have believed she was blessed, but I saw a new thing that blessed my heart as the Holy Spirit moved through the connections to grow the faith of both young and old as the body of Christ served together and grew stronger.

Now we have something called Both/And or Hybrid worship. The Mevo (I think it needs a name) will be part of the worship space for years to come. Our virtual worship goes from coast to coast. Some worship with us live and others worship as they are able later. How does this new thing in our space change how we see the scope of our outreach? Our walls now have virtual expansion and our mission to the world begins in our worship. When we gather in, we gather from all over the world. Isaiah reminds us that God has called us by name and redeemed us, that we belong to God. It is my prayer that we spread this message through our work in the community, through our worship that is both/and, and through our fellowship together.

July we begin a new thing with VBS. Compassion Camp will be a Saturday morning camp for 5 weeks. It will offer ways for our children to be compassionate with others, with creation, and with themselves. A very different VBS.

What other new things will July hold? What will spring forth? Will we have eyes to see?

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)*

BE LOVED...BE KIND...Compassion Camp...BE YOU



Saturday, July 24 at 9:00 a.m. our Saturday School VBS will begin. Compassion Camp will run for 5 Saturdays. Each week a different Bible Story where we learn about the compassion of Christ. There will still be songs, games, physical activities that go along with the Bible story of the week, but this VBS will be like none we ever did...filled with compassion!!!!!!

Ages: 3 yrs — completed 4th Grade

|                     |                        |                   |                      |                       |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ONE                 | TWO                    | THREE             | FOUR                 | FIVE                  |
| <b>At the Table</b> | <b>To the Neighbor</b> | <b>For Myself</b> | <b>Along the Way</b> | <b>With the World</b> |
| Luke 15:11-32       | Mark 2:1-12            | Mark 12:28-31     | Ruth 1:1-22          | Leviticus 25          |

We are looking for volunteers to help on Saturdays - you do not have to commit to all five. Contact Pastor Carolyn or Danielle Nugent. Registration Forms will be available July 4th and through our Facebook page.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL



Where have all the Sunday School folks gone? We miss you!! We are back meeting in the sanctuary. If you want distance we have plenty of room. Tim is still teaching the class. Our lessons for July

include a study on loving our neighbor, caring for strangers in our land, how we as the church can care for our members in need, and how invested true neighbors are with one another. Scripture comes from Proverbs 3:27-30; 6:1-5; 25:20-23, Ruth2:4-16, Acts 6:1-7, Mark: 2:1-12

Looking forward to seeing you in Sunday School. If you can't make it watch Tim on Mondays. Also you can read my written lessons sent out by Pastor Carolyn. Donald Rose

July (Unit 2) - The People Next Door

- 4 - Fenced In
  - 11 - Listening to the Stories
  - 18 - Inside Out
  - 25 - Love Your Neighbor. Really
- Spiritual Practices: Scripture

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.

**Virtual Plank Chapel Continues**  
 Live streaming of the 11:00 Sunday service is 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.

Senior Circle

July 21st Senior Circle will meet at 10:00 a.m. for a program and a light lunch. It has been a long time since we gathered. Invite a friend. Hot Dogs just may be on the menu!



The Team



The start



The finish



**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.



# Community Prayers

For... Randolph Wilson, Tim Smith, Marvin Daniel, John Allen, Natasha Aiken, Kay Thompson, Arvelle Abbott, 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

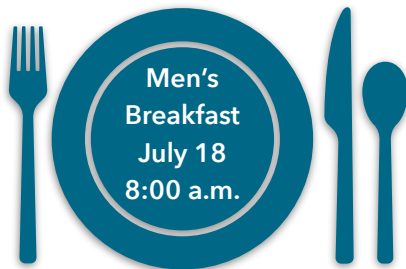


**NC CONFERENCE  
UMW  
VIRTUAL Mission u  
2021  
July 22-24**

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.



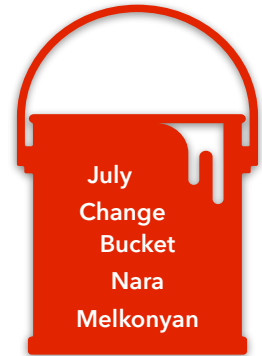
**United Methodist  
Women to meet  
Sunday  
August 8th at 3:00 p.m.  
It has been a long while - new to  
UMW - come and join us!**



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



**Feeding the  
Community**



**Cokesbury Food  
Pantry Sundays**

**July 4 and 18  
Nonperishable Goods**



| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday                          | Wednesday                                    | Thursday                                     | Friday | Saturday  |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--|--|--------|---|
| 27<br>Fifth Sunday After Pentecost-Green<br>8:30 AM Awakenings<br>10:00 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship<br>3:00 PM Church Council Meeting | 28<br>John Wesley's Birthday (1703)<br><b>Church Council to meet June 27 3:00 p.m.</b> | 29                               | 30   | 1<br>10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study  | 2      | 3   |
| 4<br>Sixth Sunday After Pentecost-Green<br>Independence Day (USA)<br>8:30 AM Awakenings<br>10:00 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship          | 5<br>Happy 4th of July   | 6                                | 7  | 8<br>10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study  | 9      | 10  |
| 11<br>Seventh Sunday After Pentecost-Green<br>8:30 AM Awakenings<br>10:00 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship                                 | 12<br>1:00 PM Leadership Fellows   | 13<br>8:00 AM Leadership Fellows | 14   | 15<br>10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study | 16     | 17  |
| 18<br>Eighth Sunday After Pentecost-Green<br>8:00 AM UMM<br>10:00 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship   | 19   | 20<br>10:00 AM Senior Circle     | 21   | 22<br>10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study | 23     | 24<br>Compassion Camp<br>9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.<br> |
| 25<br>Ninth Sunday After Pentecost-Green<br>8:30 AM Awakenings<br>10:00 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship                                   | 26   | 27                               | 28<br>10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study | 29   | 30     | 31<br>Compassion Camp                               |

**Senior Circle**  
July 21  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Hot Dog Luncheon  
and a program  
Join in the Fellowship

**Compassion Camp**  
VBS  
July 24, 31  
August 7, 14, 21  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Ages 3 — completed 4th grade