

# CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors!

## Fall Storms

September is the month when Fall officially begins. It is also the month when the oceans seem to churn up more storms than any other part of the hurricane season. It is as if the turn from summer heat to winter's cold creates this churning of wind and rain as the seasons collide.

My favorite (I know I say that a lot) passage about storms is when Jesus calms the sea. Jesus does two things, rebukes the winds which calms the sea and asks his disciples about their faith. What is interesting is that in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus asks the question in the midst of the storm, in Mark and Luke the question comes in the calm.

We have many storms around us these days; wild fires rage out west consuming forests and towns, hurricanes battering islands and shorelines, the earth trembles and buildings fall in Haiti, a pandemic rises and falls like the tides until we find ourselves in its rip current, and the violence of war erupts and rips apart any thought of peace or stillness. How do we hear Jesus' question in our world today so caught up in the storm, "Why are you afraid? Where is your faith?"

I sit here in the cocoon of the parsonage with my laptop appropriately on my lap with these questions before me. The air is conditioned to keep the late summer heat from draining my thoughts or energy and it feels like I am in the eye of the storm. I am in its stillness. Storms swirl all around me and soon will move until I too am up against the strong emotional winds of the storm before me and I hear Jesus' question in this stillness, "Why are you afraid? Where is your faith?"

I do not have any answers to the storms around the world. I do not doubt God is in control. I believe one day God's kingdom will come. Yet fear is riding the edges of my faith like a storm cloud chasing the sun. I am in the boat with the disciples again and I remember. I remember Jesus is with me. I remember I am not alone. I remember my companions are with me. I remember this storm can be faced together. Collectively we may find the answers through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I remember the images of children in the arms of a soldier. I remember the hope of families looking at the shell of their home. I remember the story of Haiti's independence and resilience. I remember the faces of loved ones lost. I remember Jesus did not get out of the boat. I remember the boat landed on the shore where ministry continued. Jesus continued to work with disciples who experienced fear and doubt.

In my remembrance I have hope that keeps the fears from overwhelming. Fall storms are coming. We can face them together. Jesus is with us. He promised to be with us always, not just on beautiful summer days but also on days when bombs explode, when we hear the word cancer or dementia, when we

hold a loved one for the last time, when we face unemployment or eviction. I do not what tomorrow will bring, but I know who holds tomorrow. I have a relationship with the One who holds the world in the palm of His hand. I will trust in Him, lean on Him, and reach out to those who are in the midst of a storm and offer His peace. Will you join me in the boat? We can do this together.

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)

## Friends and A Common Table

Luke 19:1-7 (NRSV) *He entered Jericho and was passing through it. <sup>2</sup>A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup>He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.’ <sup>6</sup>So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. <sup>7</sup>All who saw it began to grumble and said, ‘He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.’*

Many of us have friends and neighbors who are hungry, not just for food but for food for their soul. These friends and neighbors may be a little suspicious of the church, yet want to know Jesus or just curious about this man, Jesus.

This month we are launching “Common Table” groups. This is not like the Dinner for Eight groups of years past. Common Table is a way for us to welcome Jesus and our friends and neighbors to our tables at home. This is a commitment to a common table in your home for approximately two years.

On Wednesday, September 22 at 6:00 p.m., the first of three informational “Dinner with Friends”

meals will be served. This dinner will have 12 reserved seats. October 27 and November 17 will be two other informational meals if you are unable to reserve a seat in September.

Over dinner we will follow the Common Table rhythm of our gathering: sharing in the preparation, setting the table, enjoying our dinner, cleaning up together and settling down with a dessert and conversation around a scripture, life, and what it means to be in community.



As we conclude our conversation we will turn to how to form a Common Table group - what is important to share with neighbors and friends about this gathering, how often you will meet and eat together, and how to move from life conversations to the scriptures.

Friends in our common table groups may ask to join in worship on Sunday or may not. If we were to put a goal on a common table, the goal is to introduce or reacquaint our friends with Jesus and a life of faith, growing in grace together. We will let God and the Holy Spirit move through these connections and tables as only God can. We will be faithful to our call to introducing our friends to Jesus over a common table.

Look for the Reservation Sheets in the Fellowship Hall or send an email or text to Pastor Carolyn and ask to be included.

## Preparing for Charge Conference

Committees to begin their work of telling our story and preparing for our future.

- PPRC will meet to write the Church Profile
- Finance Committee - Sep 5
- Nominations/Leadership - Sept 5
- Trustees - TBS
- Church Council meets September 26
- Reports due in October 25th

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Fall Quarter Has the Theme - Belong  
Class Meets in the Willing Workers Classroom at  
10:00 A.M. Teachers: Tim Smith, Donald Rose  
McGhee

### September (Unit 1) - Outside in

September 5 - Hospitality to Strangers

Jeremiah 29:4-14

September 12 - Being Bold To Join

Luke 7:36-50

September 19 - Opening Doors to Christ

Galatians 2:11-21

September 26 - Citizens of God's Household

*Spiritual Practices: Hospitality*

## 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 continue 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.



## September Change Fund

### Heifer Project International

(#982532)

Allows people to share knowledge, resources, skills and their animals' offspring with others, in order to expand and create a network of hope, dignity and self-reliance that reaches 128 countries. *Contact – Phone: 800 - 422- 0474 Email: info@heifer.org Web: heifer.org*



### Kittrell Community Watch

Kittrell Community Watch, Thursday, September 23 at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall of Union Chapel United Methodist Church, 6535 Raleigh Road, Kittrell, NC.

All are welcome even if you reside outside the Kittrell area. Light refreshments will be served and a drawing for door prizes will be held.

Edward Woodlief, President  
Kittrell Community Watch 252- 767-4044  
[KittrellCommunityWatch.com](http://KittrellCommunityWatch.com).

### Cokesbury UMC Food Pantry

- Wednesday evenings from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Once a month only - September 15, October 20, November 17, December 15
  - September 15 may also include an opportunity to get a vaccine

**Cokesbury Food Pantry Sundays  
1st Sunday of the month  
Nonperishable Goods**

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

Pope Francis, "a Prayer for our Earth" (From Sojourners Verse and Voice of August 27, 2021)

### August caught in Pictures



### 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 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... Phyllis Murphy, Mike Hicks, Tim Smith, David Driver, John Allen, Natasha Aiken, Arvelle Abbott, Alice and Ted Finch, Martha Rowland, Charlotte Lalas, Tilly Hughes, 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

## Crimestoppers - Night Out

Tuesday, September 21

Henderson

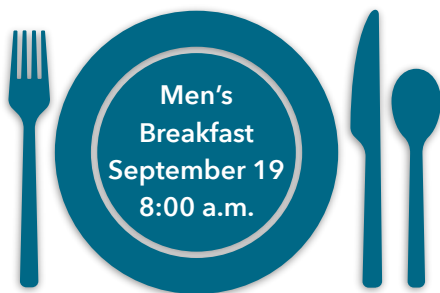
3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Between the Library and the Police Department

Vendors and Community Information



**United Methodist Women to meet Sunday**  
September 19th 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!

COVID-19 and Variants: Prayerfully consider the habits we have learned: washing hands, sanitizer, safe distance, masking, and staying home when not feeling well

**Virtual Plank Chapel Continues**  
Live streaming of the 11:00 Sunday service is on Facebook. Go online to: [facebook.com/plankchapelUMC](https://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.

# SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Awakenings</li> <li>10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> </ul>	30	31	1	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> </ul>	3	4
5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Awakenings</li> <li>10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> <li>3:00 PM Nominations and Leadership</li> <li>4:00 PM Finance committee</li> </ul>	6 Labor Day	7 Rosh Hashanah	8	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> </ul>	10	11
12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Awakenings</li> <li>10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> </ul>	13	14	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Senior Circle</li> </ul>	16 Yom Kippur	17	18
19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:00 AM UMM</li> <li>10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> <li>3:00 PM UMW</li> </ul>	20	21 Crime Stoppers Night Out Against Crime 3 pm - 7 pm Henderson	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:00 PM Dinner with Friends</li> </ul>	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> <li>6:00 PM Kittrell Community Watch</li> </ul>	24	25
26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30 AM Awakenings</li> <li>10:00 AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00 AM Worship</li> <li>3:00 PM Church Conference</li> </ul>	27	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:00 PM Worship committee</li> </ul>	29	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study</li> </ul>	1	2

