

CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors

Senior Circle

The December Senior Circle gathering is Wednesday, December 14, 2022. Join us for a Christmas program of carols and stories, followed by a feast of favorite foods.



Change Bucket

The December Change Bucket is Community Partners of Hope, emergency housing for homeless men from October through March. The Hope House is their transitional residence that houses 6 men working towards independence. Community Partners of Hope (CPOH) is running a 365 Campaign to raise funds for a shelter that will be opened 365 days of the year and have the potential to house men, women, and families. Check out their website for more information: www.cp-hope.org

New Beginnings

On Christ the King Sunday, Rev. Ruiz-Millan our District Superintendent spoke of new beginnings. He shared with us the church's calendar that begins on the 1st Sunday of Advent. He spoke of the one whose birth we prepare for and the reality that we are the ones who live in the reign of Christ our King, the one whose crown was thorns. He reminded us that our lives are to reflect our King's life. He also spoke of the grief of the Annual Conference as we voted to affirm the disaffiliation of our brothers and sisters in Christ, churches that have been part of our lives for many decades.

Sunday, November 27 the Advent season begins with a word of hope. Hope in new beginnings. We may not see that much has changed as the sanctuary is adorned as we remember and the hymns are familiar as are the litanies of the Hanging of the Greens, yet it is a new day, a new year, a new beginning.

All of our lives are different. Some have lost family members, some have new family members, lost jobs, new jobs, every year brings changes. Health issues still make the news as well as war, and natural disasters, yet it feels as if we are waking from a tranced sleep of trauma. How do we go forward?

Consider with me how Advent can help us discern that answer. We not only prepare for the coming of the babe of Bethlehem we also prepare for when the King will come in glory. Advent prepares us for that second coming. Our faith in Christ the King gives us hope that the world will be saved. We are guided by the light of Christ through the darkness of the world. We will hear the prophecies of a people who turned away from God and a God who loved them enough to come to earth as a helpless infant in an occupied nation ruled by a power hungry king.

This Christ, this God, this Holy Spirit makes all things new. As we consider our future with hope, how can we help others know this Christ, this God, this Holy Spirit? Communities are fracturing, families are fracturing and more than ever need a Prince of Peace. If we are the reflection of Christ to the world, we are also the messengers to bring the good news.

In previous Chapel Chatters I have spoken of being a front yard church and have asked what our turquoise table might look like. Consider with me that the new beginnings could start in our



The Bible Year 2022

December will complete our Bible Year readings. Those who struggled through to the end, thank you! The book of Revelation begins on Christmas Eve. The last day of the year will end the challenge with Revelation 21:1-22:21.

- Journal if you are able
- Facebook Group - Bible Year where you can leave comments, questions, blessings, struggles



FLOWERS

- 2023

Do you have special dates you would like to remember

through flowers on the altar for worship? Contact Judy Wilson at judith9563@gmail.com, or 252-492-0624.

If you would like a note in the bulletin about the flowers contact Pastor Carolyn's secretary at cnbroy@nccumc.org. She will place in the bulletin that flowers were given to the glory of God and in honor or memory of... All calendar dates are open at this time - except for the poinsettia days and Easter lilies.

own front yards, or possibly our back yards. What if we were to have fire pit conversations with neighbors, friends we haven't seen in a while. What if we were to have book clubs around our tables and when weather permits, bring them outdoors. How can we meet our drifters where they are today?

I have this hope for Plank Chapel UMC that we will not only be messengers of hope, but show the way to live in love with our neighbors no matter how different each of us is in how we work, live, worship, and play. Only together can we offer hope to a hurting world. Shall we take this Advent time of preparing to be in prayer for our new beginnings. May we hear the voices of angels to guide our future.

Praying with you,
Pastor Carolyn



I woke up early that morning. I barely got any sleep the night before. I had been waiting for this morning for as long as I could remember; I was anticipating the unimaginable. I woke up my brothers up too. We sat at the top of the stairs, fidgeting excitedly in silence. There the three of us sat- waiting.

This scenario happened every year for us on Christmas morning. We'd sit at the top of the stairs waiting to hear our parents call us down when it was time to open presents. There was a thrill of running down the stairs to find presents under the tree and spending the morning watching each other opening gifts. This experience enabled us to be fully present with each other, even if it was momentarily.

Because shortly after presents, we'd each go back into our own little worlds for a while: my brothers and I would usually be fixated on our new gifts, my mom would jump back into the busyness of Christmas Day, and my dad would start helping us get ready for the day.

The Season of Advent can be like this for me, or at least, this is what I hope the Season of Advent will be like for me. This Sunday, November 27, begins this year's Season of Advent. In this season, we spend time in anticipation; we anticipate and await the second coming of Christ and remember the anticipation that was for the first coming of Christ. The word "anticipate" isn't dreaming for something or creating a 'what if' scenario; it's an expectation, and something we can count on.

I can only anticipate that this Advent Season will offer and remind us of God's hope, wonder, desire of relationship, and love that God has for us and for us to share with each other.

I look forward to celebrating the miracle of Christ with each of you this Advent Season,
Katherine Varnson

Sunday School

Theme: Power and Love

This winter, our Bible lessons follow the theme “Power and Love.” The lessons first challenge us to try to understand Scripture, particularly the Nativity accounts, from the position of vulnerability and powerlessness. They then move to a closer look at what it means to belong to the family of God and culminate in a series of lessons on love and how it informs and changes our relationships. The writer of the student book is Sue Mink.

Unit 1 — Power and Vulnerability

God’s incarnation was into a poor family from a village of no consequence, vulnerable to the whims and machinations of the mighty Roman Empire. While some people reading this Bible study can relate to the poverty and obscurity, most will read it as citizens of a great world power. Some people know from experience that power can be abused even against a government’s own citizens, but others have known only the protection and benefits of that power. These lessons invite us to read the Nativity stories from the vantage point of the victims of empire.

Scriptures: Judges 9:1-15; Matthew 1:1-25; Matthew 2:1-12; Matthew 2:13-15

Spiritual Practice: Acts of Mercy

The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God’s Voice in Advent

Susan Robb takes us into the Christmas story with a focus on the angelic encounters. Join us in person on Sunday afternoons or connect to the study group through this zoom link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85438982083>

Nov 27 - Session 1 - Standing in the Presence of God - Gabriel and Zechariah

Dec 4 - Session 2 - Let It Be - Gabriel and Mary

Dec 11 - Session 3 - Acting on the Unbelievable - An Angel of the Lord and Joseph

Dec 18 - Session 4 - Hark the Herald Angels Sing - The Angels and the Shepherds

Missional Opportunities

CPOH Men’s Shelter Meals - prepare for 10 men - Outward Witness serves on the 4th Tuesday of the months the shelter is open. Susan Sears coordinates the menu - if you would like to assist in preparation, let Susan know. There are other dates available on the shelter’s calendar. If you or your family or your Sunday School class would like to participate the following link



UMM BBQ Pancakes

Each year the BBQ’s success is because of the volunteers who come and assist in the preparations and serving. Hours of time donated to an event that draws people from all over the community. **On Sunday, December 18th at 8:30 a.m.** the United Methodist Men are serving pancakes and sausage to all the volunteers who came and helped at the BBQ. Family and friends are welcome to join in the morning festivities.

Breakfast served at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

Children’s Class

Willing Workers

Advent - Angels

Worship at 11:00 a.m.





Community Prayers

For... Tim Smith, Whitney Abbott, John Rogers, Patricia Rogers, Thomas McIntyre, Randy Ross, Steven Higgins, Russell Fuller, David Driver, Martha Rowland, Tilly Hughes, Freddie McGhee, Faye Young

For... healing, reconciliation
For... those facing medical procedures

For... medical professionals and first responders

For... those grieving
For ... those with addictions
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



United Methodists across eastern North Carolina welcome newly-elected Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton as their episcopal leader.

will show what dates are available: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904of4aabad2da6fe3-mens>. They ask that food be delivered between 6:45 pm and 7:00 pm, if too early the food will be cold and they have no facilities to heat it up, if later they assume you are not coming and find another resource. Our current schedule is:

- Nov 29 - UMW
- Dec 27 - Outward Witness
- Jan 24 - Outward Witness
- Feb 28 - Outward Witness
- Mar 28 - Outward Witness

Zeb Vance Clothing Closet

This provides students with clothes should an accident happen or they come to school without. Sizes are for boys or girls K-3rd Grade. Pants (if you buy sweat pants - can go either for boys or girls), belts, shoes (assorted sizes), coats, gloves & hats, and hygiene items (wrapped or seals intact) i.e. deodorant, shampoo, body wash, toothbrush, tooth paste.

Blessing Box Update

Our Blessing Box has been visited often, thank you for your support of this mission. We are adopting a practice of marking through the bar codes on the items we place in the box. It is a practice many of the Blessing Boxes have adopted to protect the families who need the food.



Remember to check your book shelves so that we can also offer children's books and adult books as a lending library.

Toiletries and feminine products are also helpful.



On January 1, 2023 the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church will look different than it does now. 249 churches have completed the disaffiliation process to leave the

United Methodist Church. In June of 2023 that number may increase. On Tuesday, November 22, the Henderson Daily Dispatch wrote about the impact in our community. The leadership at Plank Chapel UMC has felt that there are still too many unknowns to address this issue. We have sister churches in ministry that are still our sister churches, no matter the name on their sign. There are members in all

disaffiliating churches that were not like minded to the vote. They now have to decide to stay in their home church, find another one or join the collective community of the Conference while they discern where they wish to be members.

Advent Opportunities and Christmas Worship

November 27 — 1st Sunday of Advent — Hope
11:00 a.m. — Hanging of the Greens —
Communion

4:30 p.m. — Advent Study — The Angels of
Christmas

December 4 — 2nd Sunday of Advent — Love

4:30 p.m. — Advent Study — The Angels of
Christmas

December 11 — 3rd Sunday of Advent — Joy

4:30 p.m. — Advent Study — The Angels of
Christmas

December 18 — 4th Sunday of Advent — Peace

8:30 a.m. — UMM Pancake Breakfast
4:30 p.m. — Advent Study — The Angels of
Christmas

December 21

7:00 p.m. — The Longest Night Worship —
a worship service for those who find the holidays
hard. A time of prayer, quiet and lighting candles of
remembrance.

December 24 — Christmas Eve

8:00 p.m. — Candlelight Communion
Worship

December 25 — Christmas Day

10:30 a.m. — Christmas Worship —
Communion and Carols — join us (pjs are
permitted)

December 31 — New Year's Eve

7:00 p.m. — Watch Night Worship — A
worship service to let go of the things we do not
want to bring into the new year and a time to offer
to God what we hope for the year to come.



Angel Tree Generosity

The United Methodist Women would like to thank the people of Plank Chapel UMC for your generous giving in our Zeb Vance Angel Tree. Your giving will brighten the Christmas of the three families we sponsored. Thank you for supporting our outreach ministry.



**The Christmas Card mailbox
is back in the sanctuary. You
will find it on the back wall
near the flags and stained
glass windows.**

December 2022

UMW DEC 18 – 3:00 p.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Colossians 1:1-2:23 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM PPRC Meet- 4:30 PM Advent Study - The Angels of	28 Colossians 3:1-4:18	29 1 Thessalo...1:1-3:13 6:30 PM UMW shelter meal	30 1 Thessalo...4:1-5:28	1 2 Thessalo...1:1-3:18	2 1 Timothy 1:1-3:16	3 1 Timothy 4:1-6:21
4 2nd Timothy 1:1-2:26 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:30 PM Advent Study - The Angels of	5 2nd Timothy 3:1-4:22	6 Titus 1:1-3:15	7 Philemon 1-25	8 Hebrews 1:1-3:19	9 Hebrews 4:1-6:20	10 Hebrews 7:1-9:28 12:00 PM Family Event
11 Hebrews 10:1-11:40 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:30 PM Advent Study - The Angels of	12 Hebrews 12:1-13:25	13 James 1:1-2:26	14 James 3:1-5:20 10:00 a.m. Senior Circle	15 1 Peter 1:1-2:25	16 1 Peter 3:1-5:14	17 2 Peter 1:1-2:22
18 2 Peter 3:1-18 8:30 AM UMM-pan- 10:00 AM Sunday 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM UMW 4:30 PM Advent Study - The Angels of	19 1 John 1:1-3:24	20 1 John 4:1-5:21	21 2 John 1-12 7:00 PM Longest Night Worship Service	22 3 John 1-15	23 Jude 1-25	24 Revelation 1:1-2:29 Christmas Eve 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight
25 Christmas Day Revelation 3:1-5:14 10:30 AM Worship	26 Christmas...(substitute) Revelation 6:1-8:5	27 Revelation 8:6-11:19 6:20 PM Shelter Meal	28 Revelation 12:1-14:20	29 Revelation 15:1-17:18	30 Revelation 18:1-20:15	31 New Year's Eve Revelation 21:1-22:21 7:00 PM Watch Night Service