

# CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors

## Deepest Gratitude

Every week I speak of the offerings you make for the cause of Christ at Plank Chapel. I am deeply grateful for your continued financial stewardship. Without your faithfulness to your covenant with God to share your witness, your talent, your time, and your treasure, the Body of Christ would be diminished. Thank you again.

## Senior Circle

The February Senior Circle gathering is Wednesday, February 16, 2022 weather and COVID permitting. All our welcome. Food, friends, and a program to inspire or delight.

## Change Bucket

This month the Change Bucket will go towards Ruin Creek Animal Protection Society of North Carolina. This nonprofit works to rescue animals that enter Vance County Animal Shelter and need new homes.

**We are also collecting old blankets and towels.**



## Wilderness Wonderings...

January took us through the books of Genesis and Exodus in our Bible Year study. I was struck by the 40 years of wilderness wandering of God's chosen people. This group of Hebrews cried out to God in their captivity. God heard their cries, sent them a liberator and the journey to the promise land began. So did the complaining. They were thirsty, God provided water. They were hungry, God provided manna and quail. They were tired of manna and quail. God seemed to have forgotten them so they made an idol to worship...the list goes on. It makes you wonder, it did me about a God who loves us enough to put up with our whining and complaining. God is no doormat. There were consequences to the people of Israel. They wander for 40 years because God desires for them to rely solely on God.

### Shelter Meal for February

February 22 - delivery time is 6:45 p.m. - Contact Susan Sears to assist - 252-213-0250 (no pork - provide main dish, vegetable or side dish, bread, dessert, drinks for 10)



## The Bible Year 2022

It's here - the Bible Year. The February readings are include on the calendar page.

- Read daily - or as your schedule allows
- Journal if you are able
- Attend a small group to discuss what your are reading:
  - Thursday mornings at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
  - Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. at the parsonage
  - Facebook Group - Bible Year where you can leave comments, questions, blessings, struggles

## FLOWERS

Do you have special dates you would like to remember through flowers on the altar for worship? Contact Judy Wilson at [judith9563@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:cnbroy@nccumc.org). She will place in the bulletin that flowers were given to the glory of God and in honor or memory of... January 2nd would be the first Sunday available - claim it today!!!!

All calendar dates are open at this time - except for the poinsettia days (Dec 4, 11, 18, 25) and Easter lilies (Apr 17).

These past two years have felt like a wilderness wandering. As a people we have faced a pandemic that still is with us, political strife and division, raging fires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis, volcanoes, terrorism, uncertain economic times, division over human sexuality, struggles with understanding implicit bias, not to mention divisions around vaccines, masks and the mandates, virtual meetings, virtual schools, distrust of news sources, distrust of the government, and rising fear and anger and the list goes on. We are in a wilderness seeking markers to find our way out or our way back to normal.

When the Hebrew people finally do arrive in the promised land, the land to be flowing with milk and honey, it was already occupied. In the coming months we will read of their struggles to establish themselves and create a nation with a king. As you read ask yourself, "Are they creating God's vision for God's chosen people or their own understanding of a nation state patterned after those who they have conquered or those who held them in captivity?"

I wonder if our own complaining to God is an echo of the Hebrew people. Our desire for "normal" could be asking God to return us back to Egypt and captivity. What if this time in the wilderness of pandemic and unknowns we are being refined so that we can step out of our vision of the promised land to see God's vision of God's kingdom on earth. What if the truth we are learning in this time is the truth of God's presence in our lives and in the world. All else is shifting sands unbalancing our hopes and dreams and disrupting our relationships with those we love.

Isaiah reminds us: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you: I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through the fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior." (Isa 43:1b-3a NRSV)

Our time in this wilderness will come to an end. Shall we take this time in the unknown to let go of our doubts, fears, and anger and seek God's will for our lives, the life of God's church, and for the world? What might we learn? What vision of church may we be given? Will we find in this time of darkness the only light is one of love? Will we learn that what matters most are our connections to each other? What if we took a holiday from our news feeds and used that time for prayer with God? There is nothing more precious than this moment. It is a gift from God. Allow God into every moment. It will change your world.

Praying with you,

Pastor Carolyn



### Community Prayers

For... Ruth Rowland, Gloria Avery, Billy VanZandt, Cameron Patrick Medlin, Juanita Harris, Tim Smith, Donald Rose and Johnny McGhee, Rod Inscoe Jr, Marvin Daniel, Brandi Dickerson, Kay Deans, Lillian Robbins, Skip Brown, Susan Babicz, Addison Rowan, Brandi Dickerson, Nancy Nieto, David Driver, Mike Hicks, John Allen, Natasha Aiken, 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



### Free Market Saturday

February 26

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Our first market was adrift in the snow. We are praying for clear skies in February - we will have a Free

Market every 4th Saturday of every month. Cannot wait to share!

**What is Free Market Saturday?** A time to share with the community our own clothing, knick knacks, furniture, pictures, food, toys, outdoor equipment, and maybe in the spring surplus from our gardens.

**What can you do?** Bring items for the Free Market the week of February 21-25. We will use the youth room as our collection point. Do not bring items before the 21st. We will be sorting and arranging the night of February 25th. All items must go after 2 pm on Saturday. If you want your non "purchased" items returned to you - pick them up after 2 pm that Saturday, otherwise all remaining items will go to Salvation Army or Lifeline, or Safe Space.

**What else can you do?** Come help sort on Friday or come on Saturday to help our "customers" and get to know our neighbors. The more volunteers the merrier the work!

**N95 Masks** - We have a **limited** supply of N95 masks in the Fellowship Hall - you are welcome to come and take some for your family and your neighbors who may be in need.



### Winter Weather Advisory

Winter weather can be unpredictable and challenging. If conditions call for us to cancel our in person Sunday worship and Sunday School, we will get word out through Facebook, email,

and the phone tree. Pastor Carolyn calls Faye Woodlief who begins making calls. If you feel unsafe traveling that Sunday, please stay home. If you are wondering, please call 252-438-6080 and ask. There will be virtual worship through Facebook Live power permitting.

United Methodist Women - February 20th - 3:00 p.m.  
 United Methodist Men February 20th - 800 a.m.



Never did I dream I would get COVID. I tried to stay safe. Where or how I got it I will never know. When I think back I was fighting it Thanksgiving as I was running a fever then. I only hope and pray I did not give it to anyone else. I fought until I could not fight any longer and had to get help. Life has been a blur.

I want to thank everyone who prayed for us, sent cards, called and brought food. Johnny doesn't remember who brought food so I can't call names. I do know I appreciate you looking after Johnny because you know a banana sandwich is the extent of his cooking. I am proud to say he did learn to cook bacon, eggs, toast and coffee after the 8<sup>th</sup> morning. He decided he needed more than Raisin Bran.

We take life for granted but you soon find out how much people are willing to step in and help out. We will never be able to repay you for the kindness that was shown.

It reminds me of the story of the Old Rooster and Hen that lived on a country farm. The Hen never laid an egg so she had no chicks. However; the other hens were always having little chicks the Old Hen could help teach to scratch for life. She loved all the little chicks on the farm. They were precious to her. One day the Old Hen got sick and had to leave the farm for a while. All the other chicks got together and decided they had to help the Old Rooster out. They came to visit and brought him food. Finally the Old Hen got better and returned to the farm.

The Old Rooster and Old Hen are now back on the farm and doing well thanks to the support and help of all the little chicks they helped along the way.

The Old Rooster and Old Hen love you all and pray for God's Blessings on each of you.

Johnny and Donald Rose

# Sunday School

We are hoping to be back in our classroom in February. We will be alternating between two different lesson plans. We will be working out of the Adult Bible Studies - Winter theme of Engage. February's emphasis is "Show and Tell" with a Spiritual Practice of Testimony.

Our other lesson book is the Standard Quarterly Lessons KJV. The winter themes are: Justice, Law, History. The scriptures selected come from: Pentateuch, 2 Samuel, Ezra, Job, Isaiah, Nahum.

Each week we are recording the lessons so that those who are safer at home can have access to the lessons.

By the spring we are planning to settle on one or the other for our primary texts.

Tim would be grateful for any who would like to be substitute teachers should he be unavailable.

## Children's Church

It is a joy to have our children in church and in their own

Children's Church, but right now we will wait another month before we start up again. As parents or grandparents are comfortable,

children may attend at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. March 2nd begins Lent and the move towards Palm Sunday and Easter. Should all align well, we will see them waving palms and leading us into worship.



## *ACTS Food Sunday - February 6th*

Superbowl Sunday is also the Sunday we bring food for ACTS. Bring nonperishables and paper items for those in need.

Peggy Hernandez has been one of our “resident poets.” She wrote this one after visiting Tomas’ family in Mexico and going through the border crossings.

## Hope

I breathed deeply as my feet hit the ground  
 Sense overload, sight , smell, sound  
 Finally I’ve arrived was gone for way to long  
 How I yearned to have her near me, yearned to hear her song  
 As I stood there watching a thought occurred to me  
 What if I was dreaming and this eternity?  
 My eyes were not deceiving I saw the earth clay red  
 But what if I was dreaming and this all just in my head?  
 I breathed again more deeply and clarity set in  
 The sun was brightly shining where the moon might have been  
 Gathering my senses I took my first small step  
 But as I dared move closer I saw the tears she wept  
 With every tear that fell her people did cry out  
 They raised their faces upward but silenced was their shout  
 The sun now getting bigger the heat scorching hot  
 The silenced ones were walking and pain it mattered not  
 Footprints in the desert filled with unchained hope  
 A sound was rising from them a sound to help them cope  
 I strained my ears to hear it this distant melody  
 But as I was a stranger from me the sound did flee  
 They were moving closer with every ragged step they took  
 And all their hands were clutching the pages from a book  
 Tightly they did grasp them as if for life or death  
 Prayers as they were written recited with every breath  
 I noticed then to my surprise the distant land they sought  
 A lady with a torch held high a freedom costly bought  
 I tried to walk beside them but my footprints nowhere went  
 It was then I clearly realized I was no immigrant  
 The land that they were seeking the freedom and the choice  
 Was already inside me it was a sacred voice  
 I turned my face to the sun and spoke from hallowed ground  
 And all at once they stopped and each one turned around  
 Still clutching prayer filled pages they slowly walked to me  
 And in my hand I held up one shiny silver key  
 As I opened up the gates one small child did step in  
 Her face was filled with color as the moonlight hit her skin  
 A mosaic of hope filled shouts I did begin to hear  
 Letting go of all their worries letting go of all their fear  
 I knew I had to leave them as outside I’d always stand  
 The gate was firmly open the gate to my homeland.

- Peggy Hernandez

## Homecoming 2022

July 10, 2022 will be Homecoming Sunday. Currently in the plans are our District Superintendent Rev. Ismael Ruiz-Milan as our preacher. At 2:00 p.m. we will have a concert on the lawn (or indoors depending on weather and COVID) with Unashamed.

What we need from you are pictures. We want to make a video of our history in pictures. We promise to return your photos to you after we have copied them to the files.

Also in the plans, a meal. As good Methodists that will be a covered dish meal with some of the main dishes supported by our UMM and UMW.

The July Chapel Chatter will also include stories. So start collecting those memories. We may even create a memory book. Does anyone know the story of the windows?

Then...take the time to cast a vision for our future. What will we look like in 5 years, 10 years and beyond.



# February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Leviticus 11:1-14:57 Fourth Su...y - Green 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM Church Council Meeting	31 Leviticus 15:1-18:30	1 Leviticus 19:1-23:44	2 Leviticus 24:1-27:34	3 Numbers 1:1-4:49 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study	4 Numbers 5:1-7:89	5 Numbers 8:1-10:36 4:00 PM Bible Year Small Group
6 Fifth Sun...y - Green Numbers...:1-14:45 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM Worship	7 Numbers...:1-18:32	8 Numbers...:1-21:35	9 Numbers...:1-25:18	10 Numbers...:1-31:54 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study	11 Numbers...:1-36:13	12 Deuteron...:1-4:49 4:00 PM Bible Year Small Group
13 Sixth Sun...y - Green Deuteron...:5:1-8:20 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	14 Deuteron...:1-12:32	15 Deuteron...:1-16:22	16 Deuteron...:1-20:20 10:00 AM Senior Circle	17 Deuteron...:1-25:19 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study	18 Deuteron...:1-30:20	19 Deuteron...:1-34:12 4:00 PM Bible Year Small Group
20 Joshua 1:1-3:17 Seventh S...y - Green 8:00 AM UMM 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM UMW	21 President's Day Joshua 4:1-6:27	22 Joshua 7:1-11:23 6:30 PM CPOH meal	23 Joshua 12:1-17:18	24 Joshua 18:1-24:33 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study	25 Judges 1:1-3:6	26 Judges 3:7-5:31 9:00 AM Free Market Saturdays 4:00 PM Bible Year Small Group
27 Transfigu...y - White Judges 6:1-8:35 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	28 Judges 9:1-12:15	1 Ash Wed...le or Gray 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	2 Ash Wed...le or Gray 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	3 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study	4 World Day of Prayer	5 4:00 PM Bible Year Small Group