

CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors

Senior Circle

The August Senior Circle gathering is Wednesday, September 21, 2022.

Change Bucket



This month the Change Bucket will go towards **SEJ Native American Ministries** (#791842) – The

Southeastern Jurisdiction Association for Native American Ministries (SEJANAM) was created by Native Americans and established by the 1984 Jurisdictional Conference to help create:

- Awareness and Dialogue,
- New Congregations and Ministries,
- Leadership Enlistment and Training,
- Inter-Tribal Witness and Sharing,
- Cross-Cultural Witness and Sharing, and
- Sensitivity to Inclusiveness.

SEJANAM serves the 15 annual conferences of the SEJ, 23 Native American churches, 3 ministries of the SEJ, and seeks to serve approximately 210,000 Native Americans of the nine southeastern states of the SEJ.

Front Yard People

For as long as I can remember I have wanted a front porch. There have been very few homes that Leo and I have lived in with a front porch, the parsonage in Dover and now our house in Southport. I am looking forward to sunrise watching on my front porch as well as children off to school sightings. Front porches offer opportunities to sit and be available to neighbors.

Pat Fuller recently gave me a book, [The Turquoise Table: Finding Community and Connection in Your Own Front Yard](#) by Kristin Schell. Ms. Schell takes us one step further and leaves the front porch behind. She placed a turquoise table in her front yard under a beautiful shade tree and began spending random moments there doing random things. She invited her children to do homework there, and they had random snacks and meals together. Over time, she and her family began to know their community better and the connections in that community became stronger. A movement of turquoise tables is growing. People are socializing in their front yards.

I immediately thought of Jesus and how many of his conversations and teachings are at tables. Jesus gathered with his disciples around the table. He ate with pharisees as their guest at table. Table time and table talk created new disciples and strengthened the spiritual lives of those already called. Our primary table where we meet Jesus is our communion table, but it is not the only table. BBQ dinner tables, Cake auction steak dinner tables, Senior Circle tables, local restaurant tables, our kitchen tables are all places where we can connect with one another and with Christ.

The other concept Kristin Schell brings out is one of being front yard people. She speaks about how we have abandoned our front yards and either gather in our homes or secluded back yards. Her idea of the turquoise table is to reclaim the front yard as a place to gather and socialize. The Holy Spirit led me to the question, what would a front yard church look like? We have a very large front yard. Would it mean bringing 4th



The Bible Year 2022

September is a month in the Gospels – Matthew, Mark, and ending at the beginning of Luke. The daily readings on are on the calendar.

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 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
 - 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, 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 (Dec 4, 11, 18, 25) and Easter lilies (Apr 17).

Saturdays out onto the lawn? Would it mean random small groups gathering on the front lawn? Or is there a deeper truth in being a front yard church.

These past few years have curbed our activities and community has gathered virtually or not at all for some months. Now as we are stepping out into the world again, the personal connections that drew us to the pews have been frayed. How then do we reestablish those connections? It could be by starting to see our homes, or our front yards as a way to begin to mend those relationships. A front yard church may be a church of front yard people who join together to celebrate the one who invites us all to that heavenly banquet. I can imagine that table on the front yard of heaven.

Common Table is an initiative in our denomination that encourages small gatherings in homes to study scripture share a meal and communion. It is not a replacement for the larger gathered body for Sunday worship, it is one way to bring Jesus into the lives of our neighbors, coworkers, or friends so that Sunday worship then becomes an expression of shared life in Christ, a celebration of what God is doing in us and in the world.

Common Table is a commitment that our busy lives may find difficult to make. It may be just as difficult for those you invite to that common table. So, what if we began a little slower, a little more casual, a whole lot simpler and just decided to be a front yard person with a turquoise (or color of your choice) table. Size and shape of the table has no limit. What happens at the table and times selected do not have to be scheduled or decided. Just a matter of showing up. Maybe you bring a pitcher of tea or water or lemonade, bring your devotional materials or the garden peas to be shelled. What if you give time for neighbors to meet you there, not at a prescribed time every day or every week, but when you are nudged to sit at your table.

There is no one answer or absolutely right answer to how we can share Christ with our neighbors. Jesus calls us to be a hospitable people and the letter to Hebrews reminds us we may be entertaining angels unaware. My prayer is that the idea of being a front yard church ignites within you a way to create opportunities to gather and share life with each other and with the neighbor you do not know. God will bring the increase if we are faithful to the process of reaching out and making connections. We have great front yards, let’s use them.

Praying with you,

Pastor Carolyn

Sunday School

Adult Bible Studies Fall

Theme: Freedom

The lessons explore the concept of salvation and God’s gracious acts in redeeming us. They challenge we who have experienced God’s gracious salvation to work for freedom and justice on behalf of others. They acknowledge that as we do, we will encounter those whose beliefs and values are different from our own, so they encourage us to remain faithful to our beliefs while we act as neighbors to others.

Unit 1 — Rescue

The concept of salvation is broad and inclusive of many divine actions by which we are rescued from the human predicament. The lessons in this unit focus on the freedom to which we are liberated. In the Roman world, the freer you were, the more power you exercised over others. Today, we think of freedom as the ability to do whatever we want without restrictions. In the Bible, freedom is about choosing to whom or what we devote ourselves without restriction. Paul described that choice as servitude to sin or becoming a slave to Christ.

Scriptures: Exodus 1:1-2:10; Exodus 15:1-18; Exodus 17:1-16; Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Spiritual Practice: Living With Intentionality



Blessing Box Our mini food pantry

When you shop consider purchasing an extra can of soup and extra box of Mac and Cheese. Each of us can stop by and place nonperishables, paper products, books, baby food, diapers, incontinent products, feminine products, or cleaning items into our box for others to use. It is a blessing box and there may be a need it can fill in your life as well. Consider as you buy what may or may not handle high temperatures in our Blessing Box and thank you for sharing in the blessings.

The Turquoise Table

Author Kristin Schell offers us this questionnaire about our community to help us consider how to be a Front Yard Church.

1. Make a list of neighbors you know by name and the ones you don't. From the ones you don't know, write something like "the man in the brick house two doors down."
2. What's special about your neighborhood?
3. What's your favorite thing about your community?
4. If you could change something about where you live, what would it be?
5. Outside of your home and neighborhood, where do you spend the most time? Work, carpool, school, etc. are possibilities.
6. What is your favorite way to gather with your friends outside of Sunday worship?
7. What food reminds you of home? What is your favorite comfort food?
8. In what ways has God gifted or equipped you? (organizing, being an extrovert, cooking, visiting, painting, crafting, etc.)
9. If time, money, or your job weren't issues to consider, what would you do to create community?

How does this list help you to form stronger connections with your community and offer opportunities to share Christ?





Community Prayers

For... Brandi Dickerson, Thomas McIntyre, Randy Ross, Steven Higgins, Russell Fuller, Nancy Nieto, 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

New Address for Sarah Cruz
908 Loganderry Lane
Apt 104
Plant City, FL 33563

September Committee Meetings

September 4 — 4:00 p.m. at the parsonage — Parsonage Committee: Thomas Beckham (chr), Todd Wilson, Scott Ritchey, Lorraine Abbott, Michelle Denton

September 20 — 6:30 p.m. — Trustees: 2022: Donald Rose McGhee, Bob Kemp (Chr), Thomas Beckham, 2023: Bryant Bobbitt, Martha Sears, Wayne Young, 2024: Greg Hunt, Darlene Ranes, Kim Oettinger

September 25 — 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary — Worship Committee: Rev. Dr. Carolyn Roy (chr), Sally Coghill, Judy Wilson, Donald Rose McGhee, Karin Driver, Greg Hunt, Janet Bobbitt

September Offerings

17th — Saturday — 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. — Life Skill Classes

Basic Money Management — Mickey Johnson, Instructor
Class size: unlimited



Cooking — Susan White, Instructor

Class size — 5

Age limit — must be 18 or older



Crafting with Karin Driver for our children



Free Market Saturday

September 24

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Bring your items the week of September 19-23
Setup is September 23
Thank you for all you are doing to make the Free Market a success
Our current plan is to hold Free Market Saturdays through October and start again in April

UMM Sep 18 – 8:00 a.m.
UMW Sep 18 – 3:00 p.m.

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Zechariah 10:1-14:21 Twelfth Su...st – Green 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM Church Council Meeting	29 Malachi 1:1-2:17	30 Malachi 3:1-4:6	31 Matthew 1:1-2:23	1 Matthew 3:1-4:25 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study	2 Matthew 5:1-48	3 Matthew 6:1-34
4 Matthew 7:1-8:34 Thirteenth...st – Green 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Parsonage	5 Matthew 9:1-10:42 Labor Day	6 Matthew 11:1-12:50	7 Matthew 13:1-58	8 Matthew 14:1-15:39 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study	9 Matthew 16:1-18:35	10 Matthew 19:1-20:34
11 Matthew 21:1-46 Fourteenth...ost – Green 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	12 Matthew 22:1-23:39	13 Matthew 24:1-25:46	14 Matthew 26:1-75	15 Matthew 27:1-28:20	16 Mark 1:1-3:35	17 Mark 4:1-5:43 10:00 AM Life Skills
18 Fifteenth S...st – Green Mark 6:1-56 8:00 AM UMM 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM UMW	19 Mark 7:1-8:38	20 Mark 9:1-10:45 6:30 PM Trustee Meeting	21 Mark 10:46-12:34 10:00 AM Senior Circle	22 Mark 12:35-13:37 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study	23 Mark 14:1-72	24 Mark 15:1-16:20 8:00 AM Free Market Saturdays
25 Sixteenth...ost – Green Luke 1:1-80 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM Worship	26 Luke 2:1-52	27 Luke 3:1-4:13	28 Luke 4:14-5:39	29 Luke 6:1-49 10:00 AM Keeping Holy Time Bible Study	30 Luke 7:1-8:39	1 Luke 7:1-8:39