

CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors

Senior Circle

The January Senior Circle gathering is Wednesday, January 18, 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

The prophet Isaiah offers these words from the Lord which are good words for a new year: *“Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down; they cannot rise; they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?”* (Isaiah 43:16-19a NRSVUE)

It is a new year, 2023. It is a time when we reflect on our previous year and the opportunity to start a new year differently. Often we make resolutions or goals that are challenging. Sometimes we meet those goals or resolutions and at other times we find we are unable to reach them or complete them. It could be we rely on our own power or we have chosen ones that we really are not ready to encounter. Consider with me how the Lord’s words through Isaiah may be for us today. We are not the ones who are doing new things, God is. What if we spent the first day of the year not planning 2023’s goals or resolutions but praying and allowing God to show us the new things in store for us.

The other part of the Lord’s words to a people in exile were for them not to remember the former or things of old. They lost much when the Assyrian’s overran their nation and destroyed all they had built, carrying off into exile those who were in power. So many of their hopes and dreams shattered by the invading army. God seeks to remind them that even in the midst of devastation and despair, God is still in control and at work for good in the world. His words are to shift the focus of a people who do not see a future but only a past.

The people of Israel were not just focused on their past, I would use the word dwell, they were dwelling on their past. We often dwell on the former things and seek to find a way to make today look like yesterday as if it was as the Biltmore commercials remind us, “a more gentler time.” Or we find our hearts and minds locked on the pain and suffering of our past, our losses overwhelm us as did the losses of the chosen people of God.

My prayer for us in 2023 is that we gently lay down the burdens of our past and allow the sweet memories to linger for a while so that we can share those stories with family and friends. Then, when the time is right to let them go, for now. Andraé Crouch

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.

Educational Opportunities for 2023

Confirmation Classes — for youth 11 years and older. Adults are welcome who want to learn more about Methodism. Anticipating classes will begin in the spring and on Pentecost Sunday our youth who will be confirmed and adults who will affirm their faith will come forward and become full members of the United Methodist Church at Plank Chapel UMC.

Lenten Study: Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws by Adam Hamilton. This study runs through the six weeks of Lent and will also guide the worship planning for our Lenten season. There is a student book that can be purchased.

learned to trust in Jesus, “through it all.”

New beginnings are not just an annual event, every day is an opportunity for a new beginning. Trust that the Lord is with you through it all and that God is doing a new thing. Believe in the one who called you by name and made you His own. He will not leave or forsake you and he has promised a future for you, as Jeremiah reminds us, “*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.*” (Jer 29:11 NRSVUE) I am looking forward to the new things God is doing at Plank Chapel United Methodist Church. May God work in and through us so that the beloved community shares the love, the hope, the joy, and the peace of God with our neighbors. May we trust in Jesus as we face each new day knowing He is with us, “through it all.”

Praying with you,
Pastor Carolyn

History of Hymns by C. Michael Hawn

January's Hymn: “Through It All” by Andraé Crouch. UMH 507
In our hymnal we have the refrain only.

“Through it all, through it all,
I've learned to trust in Jesus;
I've learned to trust in God.
Through it all, through it all,
I've learned to depend upon his word.”

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“The refrain of this hymn became the title for the autobiography written by Andraé Edward Crouch (1945–2015) with Nina Ball in 1974. Each chapter cites one of Crouch's songs. The first chapter concludes with this excerpt that appears to be a commentary on the stanzas of “Through It All”:

The hardest thing about always being on the go is leaving your home, your local community, the relatives and friends you see every day to suddenly open up your life to everybody all over the world. You become involved with more and more people and there is so much heartache it can break you. I had to learn to rely totally on the Lord. Totally.

But God sends the mountains. . . to lift us up from the valleys. . . , and He gives us strength to travel through it all—through the up times and through the down times. I just thank Him for everything, all the tears—tears of sorrow, tears of joy—for the problems, and the trust, the faith, His Word, His Holy Spirit, and for Jesus. Through it all He brings a blessed harmony to life. Knowing Him, belonging to Him, is enough. Praise His name (Crouch, 1974, p. 17).”

Andraé Crouch offers his testimony at at Billy Graham event before singing “Through It All” at this YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/CvIxwc90BEI>

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 2 — Power and Belonging

The lessons in this unit follow the trajectory of biblical imagery for faith development from adoption through baptism and infancy in faith, into youthful excitement and exuberance, and then to a mature faith that struggles, challenges, and questions.

Scriptures: Galatians 3:23—4:7; Luke 15:11-32; John 17:1-24 and Ephesians 4:14; Colossians 3:12-17; Matthew 22:1-14

Spiritual Practice: Rule of Life

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.

Missional Opportunities

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.



Wesley Covenant Prayer

John Wesley created a covenant worship service for the beginning of a new year. In that service is his prayer that we often pray to recommit to our baptismal covenant with God. May you use this prayer as you consider your goals for 2023.

“I am no longer my own,
but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt,
rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing,
put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee
or laid aside for thee,

exalted for thee
or brought low for thee.

Let me be full,
let me be empty.

Let me have all things,
let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield
all things

to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and
blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine.

So be it.

And the covenant which I
have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.”



Community Prayers

For... Frances Woodlief, Theresa Hock, Ian Massingill, Natasha Aiken, Kimberly West, Bob Beers, Tim Smith, Whitney Abbott, John Rogers, Patricia Rogers, Thomas McIntyre, Randy Ross, 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.



CPOH Men's Shelter Meals - prepare for 12 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 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:

Jan 24 — Outward Witness

Feb 1 — United Women of Faith

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.

Conference-Wide Leadership Training

for Lay Leaders, Trustees, Finance, Nominations, and S/PPRC

January 29, 2023 @ 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Join us for one of five virtual workshops designed to equip you to serve in your local church as Lay Leader or on the Finance, Trustees, Nominations, or Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee.

Whether you are starting a new leadership role, or have been serving in church leadership for years, we hope this model of leadership training will prepare you for your much-needed ministry. Laity and clergy in partnership with one another is the key to a church's success in making disciples.

How It Works

We will host five Zoom meetings broken down into two sessions, and registrants can choose the topic that they need. If you need more than one training, register for the training(s) you would like to attend live. If you are interested in more than one topic in a session, no need to worry. We will send the recording links for all the sessions about a week after the event.

2:00 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.

Lay Leader, led by John Hall

S/PPRC, led by Jon Strother

Nominations, led by Paul Lee

4:00 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.

Trustees, led by Gray Southern

Finance, led by Christine Dodson

Who Can Register?

Anyone! We send invitations to the Lay Leader and the chair of each committee: Finance, Trustees, Nominations, and S/PPRC. However, we heartily recommend that all committee members attend the training. It is helpful when all committee members receive the same instruction. In addition, anyone who wants to learn more about how these committees work is more than welcome to join.

<https://nccumc.org/leadership/event/conference-wide-leadership-training-2/>

The Center For Leadership Excellence is hosting a short information session about Messy Church to determine whether to bring Messy Church leaders in for a day-long training...

January 31, 2023 @ 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm

The tag line for the Messy Church movement is, *Church, but not as you know it.* If you have attended church for a long time, Messy Church may not look like church to you. At Messy Church, all ages meet together to learn about Christ through games, crafts and activities, music, and storytelling from the Bible. A foundational ingredient of Messy Church is to gather around a table for a snack or meal and build relationships with each other, God, and the world.

To register for the information session: <https://nccumc.org/leadership/event/messy-church-information-session/>

Christmas Breakfast tradition returned! Pancakes, sausage, and great company to celebrate the generous gift of service by the men, women, and youth of Plank Chapel UMC - Thank you to the chef's - our UMM



UMM – Jan 15 – 8:00 a.m.
 UWof – Jan 15 – 3:00 p.m.

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Open house @ parsonage	2 New Year'...(substitute)	3	4	5	6	7
8 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM Church Council Meeting	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 8:00 AM UMM 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM United Women of Faith	16 Martin Lut...ing Jr. Day	17	18 10:00 AM Senior Circle	19	20	21
22 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM Worship committee	23	24 6:20 PM Shelter Meal	25	26	27	28
29 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 2:00 PM Conference--Wide Leadership Training	30	31 1:00 PM Messy Church Information Session	1 First Day o...ory Month 6:00 PM UMW -- Men's Shelter Meal	2	3	4