

CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts | Open Minds | Wide Open Doors

Change Bucket

The March Change Bucket is **ACTS**, Area Christians Together in Service. The goal of ACTS is to provide a warm meal to those who may otherwise go without. ACTS also offers a food donation program to help with a personal soup kitchen warehouse and to help with other community food supplies. ACTS serves a meal through our Soup Kitchen each weekday (Monday through Friday). Clients either come on foot or drive to our location to receive a plate. Clients are eligible to receive an allotment of food through our Food Pantry every 90 days. We give these out on Tuesday and Thursday morning. Clients need to call any weekday morning between 9:00am and 12:00pm to be put on the food distribution list. They will be scheduled for the next available date for which they are eligible.

Soup Kitchen Hours:

Monday through Friday,
11:00am to 12:00pm

Food Pantry Hours:

Tuesday/Thursday, 8:30am to
9:30am

Address: 201 S. William
Street, Henderson, NC 27536



Lenten Longings

Each year as Lent begins this longing grows in my soul. I long for the Kingdom of God to be more than glimpses revealed in acts of mercy, justice, and compassion. I long for swords to be shaped into plowshares. I long for the new things God promises in Isaiah. I long for a world at peace. I long for the church to be what Christ envisioned, a body vibrant with love and seeking out the lost ones.

I realize quickly that my longings are not mine alone. Longing isn't enough, is it? Christ calls us to be His hands, feet, and voice in this world. Each of us longing for a new heaven and a new earth are commissioned to go and make disciples who make disciples who make disciples. We are to share the good news of Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

These 40 days in the early church were the days when men and women new to the faith would be taught about God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the church, and the baptismal vows they would be taking on Easter Sunday. It was a time of purification for not only these new Christians but for the church that was teaching them the ways of faith. Can you imagine those days? Pilgrims on the journey with their companions showing the way?

The Saturday before Easter Sunday they would be in the church on an Easter vigil of fasting and prayer. When it was time for worship, dressed in white they entered the sanctuary and before the faithful body of Christ answered the questions: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world and repent of your sin? Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races? Questions we have all answered. Lent is a good time to reflect on

FLOWERS**- 2023**

If you would like a note in the bulletin about the flowers contact Pastor Carolyn's email: cnbroy@nccumc.org.

Contact Judy Wilson at judith9563@gmail.com, or 252-492-0624 to set your date!

Easter Lily forms will be out in March.

Senior Circle — March 15 10:00 a.m.

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.

Revival is coming...

June 5-9

Kittrell churches are planning a revival. Rev. Radford Frazier of Union Chapel Methodist Church and Markeith Daye of White Rock Missionary Baptist Church are leading the way. They are seeking our participation in this multi day event!

how we have lived out our answers to these questions.

Then those who have stepped forward to be baptized, together with the congregation confess their faith. That confession is a creedal statement of belief that has been a baptismal creed since the 3rd or 4th century. Consider with me, each new convert to the faith adds their voice to the cacophony of voices over the ages. I long for the world to vibrate as those words are spoken.

My lenten prayer of longing for Plank Chapel United Methodist Church is that we take these baptismal questions and baptismal creed to our prayer closets and allow God through the power of the Holy Spirit to guide our hearts and the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to forgive us where we have fallen short of our vows. On Easter morning may we join the heavenly chorus proclaiming "Holy, holy holy Lord, God of power and might, **heaven and earth are full of your glory.** (emphasis is mine) Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest."

Praying with you,
Pastor Carolyn

⁹ *After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.* ¹⁰ *They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"*
(Rev 7:9-10 NRSVUE)

Lenten Psalm of Longing

By Edward Hays

Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim

I thank you, O God, for the warming of the winds that brings a melting of the snow, for daylight hours that daily grow longer and richer in the aroma of hope. Spring lingers beneath the horizon as approaching echoes of Easter ring in my ears.

I lift up my heart to you, Beloved, in this season of Lent that gently sweeps across my sluggish and sleeping heart, awakening me to a deeper love for you.

May the wind of the Spirit that drove Jesus into the desert, into the furnace of prayer, also drive me with a passion during this Lenten season to enkindle the fire of my devotion in the desert of Lenten love.

Birds above, on migratory wings, signal me to an inner migration, a message that draws me homeward bound on Spirit's wings to the heart of my Beloved. May I earnestly use this Lenten season to answer the inner urge to return.

Lenten Candles of Diminishing Light



6 weeks of Lent — if you would like to share what this word means to you — reach out to Pastor Carolyn or Pastor Katherine

Week 1 — Matthew 4:1-11 — “when we face *choices* in the **wilderness**”

Week 2 — John 2:1-17 — “when *unknowns* fuel our **unbelief**”

Week 3 — John 4:5-42 — “when our **thirst** leads to *arguments*”

Week 4 — John 9:1-41 — “when outward *appearances* **blind** us”

Week 5 — John 11:1-45 — “when the **darkness** of *death* feels like *defeat*”

Week 6 — Palm Sunday — “when our **expectations** meet *rejections*”

Easter — Victory

United Methodist Women to lead worship on March 19

Each year their program highlights the missional outreach of Plank Chapel UMC and the United Methodist Women

Sunday School

Spring Theme: The Life of Faith

This spring, our lessons center around the theme “The Life of Faith.” The language of journey and pilgrimage is commonly used to describe the Christian life. This spring our lessons encourage us to walk alongside Jesus and his disciples on Jesus’ final journey to Jerusalem and explore the nature of faith that calls us to follow Jesus despite our uncertainty and doubts. The last unit this quarter looks at the concept of sabbath, the foreshadowing of the rest that God promises at the end of our journey. The writer of the student book is Michelle Morris.

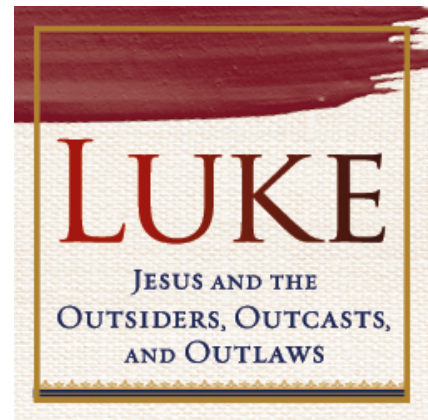
Unit 1 — Journey to the Cross

This Lenten season, we follow Jesus’ journey to the cross in Matthew’s account. Matthew’s Gospel stresses in many places that through his crucifixion, Jesus makes clear his perfect obedience to God’s will and the true nature of kingship under God’s reign.

Scriptures: Matthew 16:21-28 | Matthew 20:20-28 | Matthew 21:23-27 | Matthew 22:15-22 | Matthew 22:41-46

Spiritual Practice: Simplicity | Accountability

Sunday School lessons can be found on our YouTube channel each week. You are able to access old and new lessons. Normally posted by Wednesday of the following week.



Beginning February 26 Sundays — 4:30 p.m. 6 weeks

Adam Hamilton’s study for Lent is focused on the Gospel of Luke. He suggests we spend the 40 days daily reading from the Gospel. He broke the readings up so that each day’s readings may take 15 minutes. The 6 weeks will correspond to the 6 chapters of his book. Resources are available at www.AdamHamilton.com/Luke

Remember to continue reading portions of the Gospel of Luke every day. If you followed February’s reading plan — March begins with chapter 5 and goes through Chapter 24.

Read at your own pace and come to the sessions you are able to make.

Weekly Sessions

Feb 26 - Lifting the Lowly

Mar 5 - Simon, Do You See This
Woman

Mar 12 - Parables from the Underside

Mar 19 - On the Journey to Jerusalem

Mar 26 - The Final Week

Apr 2 - Crucified with the Outlaws



Community Prayers

For... Bennie Hoots, Virgie Eaves, Tilly Hughes, Bill Smith, Natasha Aiken, Ian Massengill, Tim Smith, Colleen Tyburski, John Rogers, Patricia Rogers, Russell Fuller, Nancy Nieto, David Driver, 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

A Matter of Balance

"A Matter of Balance" an 8 week class to begin on Wednesday, **March 1st at 12:30 p.m- 2:30 pm.** Taught by Susan Tucker of KerrTar Area Agency on Aging — Free! 60+ in age.

To register: call Susan Tucker (252) 436-2040 or email at stucker@kerrtarco.org

Session 1: Introduction to the program

Session 2: Exploring Thoughts and Concerns about Falling

Session 3: Exercise and Fall Prevention

Session 4: Assertiveness and Fall Prevention

Session 5: Managing Concerns about Falling

Session 6: Recognizing Fall-ty Behavior

Session 7: Recognizing Fall Hazards in the Home and Community

Session 8: Practicing No Fall-ty Habits and Fall Prevention: Putting It All Together

Missional Opportunities

Blessing Box Update

Our Blessing Box has been visited often, thank you for your support of this mission.



CPOH Men's Shelter Meals -last Tuesday of the season — Mar 28 — Outward Witness

4th Saturdays to return in April — start collecting now! (if you haven't been collecting already)

ADVOCATES NEEDED

Judicial District 9's Guardian ad Litem program is accepting applications for volunteer advocates.

Volunteers will be trained on advocacy for children who have experienced abuse and neglect.

No legal experience is required, just a desire to make a difference in the lives of children.

Information and applications are available at volunteerfor-gal.org. If you have questions, call (919) 497-4244 or email GAL.09@nccourts.org.

What if?

By Katherine Varnson

I met with Carolyn this past week, and we were talking about Lent and what each of us were planning on doing as our Lenten practice this year in the season. I'll admit that I hadn't come to a decision yet. I struggled with coming up with what practice I would want to do this year. I wanted it to be practical, useful, spiritual, and realistic.

Lately, I have noticed that my relationship with God has grown more distant and fear has grown closer. I find that in times like this in our spiritual growth, distance doesn't happen suddenly, but it grows silently.

I've always been a person that has struggled with the question: what if? I've struggled with this question, because the answer usually follows with a worst-case scenario, or it's an answer that builds into worry or anxiety. But I am slowly coming to learn that that repetitive worst-case scenario answer doesn't have to be the case. I'm learning that the answer to "what if" can be the best-case scenario. Now, I'm not saying that I'm expecting for everything in life to work out all the time or that I will always get the answer that I want to hear.

What I am saying is that I have no need to worry today, for worry will worry on its own.

"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." -Matthew 6:34 (NRSVUE)



I'm reminded of a poem from a book called, "Holy Sweat" that I was given years ago:

Title: I AM | Author of poem: Helen Mallicoat

I was regretting the past
And fearing the future...

Suddenly my Lord was speaking:
"MY NAME IS I AM." He paused.
I waited. He continued,

"WHEN YOU LIVE IN THE PAST,
WITH ITS MISTAKES AND REGRETS,
IT IS HARD. I AM NOT THERE.
MY NAME IS NOT I *WAS*.

"WHEN YOU LIVE IN THE FUTURE,
WITH ITS PROBLEMS AND FEARS,
IT IS HARD. I AM NOT THERE.
MY NAME IS NOT I

WILL BE.

"WHEN YOU LIVE IN THIS MOMENT,
IT IS *NOT* HARD.
I *AM* HERE.
MY NAME IS I *AM*."

This Lenten season I hope to be more present with God. I am dedicating *time* to God. How are you growing closer in your relationship with God this Lenten Season?

Photo is artwork created by the artist, Andrew Hendrixson

Praying for the Appointment Season

Bishop Connie Shelton invites us to pray this prayer throughout the appointment season.

“O God, we give thanks for our Cabinet, servant-leaders that you have raised up to help guide the work of the church. We are grateful for all of the gifts that you have given them, and for their willingness to follow the call you have placed on their lives.

As we enter into a season of discernment and decision-making in our North Carolina Conference, God, we ask that you send your wisdom to these your servants. As they gather for holy conferencing, let them be aware of your presence in their midst. May the words they speak in their conversations bear the anointing of the Holy Spirit. As they work to appoint shepherds for your church, God, grant them understanding.

In all their good work, may they receive a renewed vision for how you are already at work in the churches and communities of eastern North Carolina. Let each prayerful decision be made with grace. And when all is said and done, O God, may your peace, that passes all understanding, rest on all the work that you have made possible. We ask this prayer in the name of the One who is and who is to come, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Prayer: Jay Locklear

Dates for your calendar: June 11 — A farewell dinner for Rev. Carolyn and Leo Roy. Reach out to Wayne Young for details. Leo, Indy, Areana, and Knox will be moving south on the 12th.

June 18 — Pastor Carolyn’s last Sunday preaching. Moving day is June 27.

Welcoming new pastor gathering date is not yet set.



Holy Week and Easter Events

Watch for the Easter Lily forms this month

April 2nd — Palm Sunday — including a lunch and Easter Egg Hunt

April 7th — Good Friday — Tenebrae — 7:00 p.m.

April 8th — Blessing of the Animals — 10:00 a.m.

April 9th — Easter Sunrise 6:30 a.m. followed by pancake breakfast and flowering the cross

11:00 a.m. — Worship with Holy Communion

The Flowering of the Cross

The flowering of the cross represents the transition from Good Friday to Easter, from meditation on Jesus' death to joyful celebration of his resurrection. The ceremony transforms a barren cross, a reminder of Jesus' death, into an Easter symbol.





Fat Tuesday Pictures — Our chefs — Daryl on the biscuits, Wayne and Lora on the pancake prep, Sally and Bruce on the grill. Jan, Mike and Beth our sous chefs! Joyce at the sink cleaning up behind the cooks.

We gathered and ate and ate and ate — Thank you all who came, who shared, and who helped clean up after us!



March 2023

UJMM – Mar 19 – 8:00 a.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:30 PM Lenten Study	27 6:20 PM Shelter Meal	28 6:20 PM Shelter Meal	1 First Day of Holy Month 12:30 PM A Matter of Balance	2	3	4
5 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:30 PM Lenten Study	6	7	8 12:30 PM A Matter of Balance	9 DCOM Meeting	10	11
12 Daylight S... Time starts 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship – Communion 4:30 PM Lenten Study	13	14	15 10:00 AM Senior Circle 12:30 PM A Matter of Balance	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
19 8:00 AM UJMM 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship – UJMM 4:30 PM Lenten Study	20	21	22 12:30 PM A Matter of Balance	23	24	25
26 8:30 AM Awakenings 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 4:30 PM Lenten Study	27 6:20 PM Shelter Meal	28 6:20 PM Shelter Meal	29 12:30 PM A Matter of Balance	30	31	1