

# CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts/Open Minds/Wide Open Doors

## METHODIST MEN

(UMM) meets every third Sunday of the month [from 8am-9am](#) with breakfast, devotion, fellowship and meeting. During our recent UMM Breakfast Meeting, we set the date for this year's UMM Annual BBQ Sale [on Friday, November 3rd](#). Please mark your calendar ahead.

## UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

The United Women of Faith are composed of women who are "powerful, fearless force driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities." After summer break, we will resume our regular meeting time every third Sunday of the month [beginning September 17th, 3:00pm](#) in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited!

## Change Bucket

The Change Bucket for September and October is for Hawaii Wildfire Disaster Relief fund

## Hawaii Wildfire Disaster



On August 8, several wildfires impacted homes, businesses, and communities in Hawaii.

Rev. Edgar DeJesus, pastor in the NC Conference, said, "My family and I were in Hawaii last week attending the NAFAUM 17th Convocation when we got the news about the wildfire disaster in Maui. We have close ties in Hawaii, being home to the second largest Filipino population in the United States, and we have many Filipinos who are active members of United Methodist congregations on the Hawaiian islands, including Maui. Lahaina UMC was completely destroyed, and many of their church members were displaced."

Note: The September & October Change Bucket is for Hawaii Wildfire Disaster Relief.

September 2023

## PASTOR'S NOTE

Warm greetings in the Mighty Name of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ!

The summer months just went so fast! And it has been two months already since we moved to our new pastoral "dual" appointment last June 27th. I got to be honest with y'all that I still have boxes that have yet to be unpacked and my parsonage office still needs a complete makeover. With the grace of God, we are getting there one day at a time.

As I have shared with everyone before, I cannot thank you enough for the warm hospitality and extravagant generosity you have offered for the Pastor and his family. We are truly blessed and humbled by your love, kindness and generosity. Thanks be to God!

As we continue our shared life together, let me share with you (again) my four ministry goals for the next twelve months:

1. Champion God's mission (What is God calling us to do?) and God's vision (What is God's preferred future for His church?) and their place in the life of the people
2. Learn about the church and the community
3. Lead the church in worship and preaching
4. Spend time with the people and build relationships

Indeed, connecting with people and building relationships are very vital as we begin our journey together. Therefore, I encourage y'all to sign-up for "Conversation w/ Pastor Edgar". I'm open to meet with you at home, church, restaurants or other venues. We can also set-up lunch or dinner dates as well as individual or small group conversations.

Finally, we are birthing a Prayer Group who will meet every Wednesday, 5:30pm beginning September 6th. The Prayer Group involves both Plank Chapel UMC & Bethel UMC. We will meet via Zoom for 15-20 minutes for prayer time. If you need help how to operate a Zoom, please let me know. Also, please connect on the below the Zoom link.

In closing, let me invite y'all to join with me in praying this prayer: "Lord, let Your miracles break forth every and let me not be an obstacle in any way!"

Pastor Edgar

**Rev. Edgar De Jesus is inviting you to a scheduled  
Zoom meeting.**

**Topic: Prayer Group Zoom Meeting (Bethel UMC &  
Plank Chapel UMC)**

**Time: This is a recurring meeting**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**[https://nccumc.zoom.us/j/98771477114?](https://nccumc.zoom.us/j/98771477114?pwd=TVRTVHcwWWU0UytHOGhTYXFhZmxhdz09)  
pwd=TVRTVHcwWWU0UytHOGhTYXFhZmxhdz09**

**Meeting ID: 987 7147 7114.**

**Passcode: 288519**

### Prayer Requests

David Lee, Johnny McGhee, Bennie Hoots, Tilly Hughes, Colleen Tyburski, Patricia Rogers, Nancy Nieto, David Driver, Freddie Oettinger, Richard Jones, Michael Twisdale, and communities affected by wildfires in Hawaii

### Shut-Ins:

Kay Deans, Ben & Jackie Brown, Virgie Eaves, Faye Young, Frances Roberts, Freddie McGhee

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The Church Council will meet on September 3rd @ 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall

### SAVE THE DATE! Annual Bar-B-Cue: 11/3/23

Get out your calendar and plan to join us on Friday, November 3rd for lunch or dinner at our annual Bar-B-Que! It's incredible food and great fellowship for family and friends, and proceeds go to an important cause. For generations, the Plank Chapel Methodist Men have served our church and community, and all proceeds from this annual event help support their service projects. More details to follow.





## ATLANTA

Growing up as a pastor's kid in a rural village of South Korea, I read biographies of missionaries and had a vague idea of becoming one – one day. During my four years of college, I diligently studied the Bible with Navigators International (an international Christian discipleship ministry). However, I fell into a spiritual stagnation when I found myself unable to escape from the constraints of legalistic faith. The more I tried to live devoutly, the more drained I felt.

One day, I prayed to God, saying, “Let me personally experience your love before graduation.” At that time, I went through a period of complete isolation because of physical illness. It was a time of tears and wilderness, where only the Word of God and prayer brought me comfort and sustenance.

Then one day, God spoke to me through the Book of Romans: “Love completely fulfills God's requirements. Love is the only law you need.” God met me and healed me. Those words brought me immense freedom. I learned that any act of service that doesn't begin with love is neither beneficial to the one serving nor to the one being served.



After graduation, I worked at a hospital while searching for an opportunity to become a single missionary. However, the doors didn't open as I expected. In the meantime, I attended the Presbyterian Theological Seminary to deepen my theological foundation for missions and hospice ministry. That is where I met my husband Jay. After graduating, we applied with Global Ministries and were sent to the Philippines as global missionaries of The United Methodist Church.

## NEW MISSIONARIES RECEIVE GUIDANCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

One important lesson I learned in the Philippines is to listen to the people we were sent to serve with an open mind. After arriving in the Philippines, Bishop Solito K. Toquero appointed my husband and me as associate pastors at Central United Methodist Church in Manila, where we learned more about The United Methodist Church. I learned a great deal from the lead pastor at that time, the Rev. Dr. Homer Refuerzo.

One day, I asked Pastor Homer, "What must I do to be a good missionary?"

He replied, "Since you asked humbly, I will speak frankly. Many Korean missionaries speak little English and don't even try to learn Filipino. They come with a lot of money, build buildings, and then leave us. We want you to work with us, not just with buildings."



I took Pastor Homer's words to heart and made an effort to work with the people around me. His advice greatly helped us in our youth ministries. We emphasized self-reliance among the youth and made Korean kimchi with them to raise funds for youth activities. Over time, the youth fellowship was revitalized and became well-established.

## FAITH, THANKFULNESS AND NEW HORIZONS

After we served in the Philippines for many years, I was struggling to regain my spiritual vitality and with a thirsty heart. Around that time, we discovered our eldest son had a pituitary tumor, and our whole family entered a period of wilderness.

While traveling back and forth between Korea and the Philippines for his treatment, the tumor began bleeding and required emergency brain surgery. Being a nurse who had worked in the operating room, I understood better than most the importance of having the best doctor in charge. We selected the best surgeon we could find for the operation. However, when the emergency surgery was needed, the doctor was on a three-month leave, and a young doctor took over instead. I was very concerned. But in that moment, the Lord spoke to me, saying, “Grace, are you looking for the best doctor to save your son? I am always looking for the best servant to minister to the lost.” His words humbled me deeply.

On the day of the operation, I heard God saying, “Don’t worry, Grace. You are sending your son to the operating room to save him, but I sent my son Jesus into the world to offer his life.” When I discerned those words, I cried out, “Lord, help me to love with your love. I will not shed these tears only for my children but shed tears for all the souls you entrust to me. Help me become a missionary with your heart.”

The surgery was successful, and as my husband and I contemplated the future, we were assigned to be missionaries in residence (MIRs) at the Global Ministries headquarters in Atlanta. As an MIR, one of the most energizing aspects for me is the opportunity to meet with missionaries who are actively serving in the world on a one-on-one basis and being in fellowship with them, sharing prayers. I have learned so much from both active and retired missionaries who offer diverse experiences.

As an MIR, the most important aspect of my role is to intercede for and encourage all missionaries to engage in their missionary work with overflowing love, maintaining a deep relationship with God. We believe that a vital lifeline in our mission is to abide in the Lord and be attuned to the Holy Spirit each day. “Apart from me, you can do nothing.”

Indeed, we acknowledge that we cannot bear fruit as missionaries unless God’s love overflows within us. Mission work is not merely what we do but what the Holy Spirit accomplishes through us. God is continually searching for workers who will faithfully serve, even in the present hour. Each of us hopes to live a missionary life in response to the Lord’s earnest call, fulfilling our respective roles.

### **Global Missionaries**

Global Ministries missionaries are a tangible connection between The United Methodist Church and mission. Through denominational or ecumenical ministries, missionaries bear witness to God’s presence all around the world. They are called by God and sent out to serve by the church, usually placed in a new cultural context beyond their country of origin. Missionaries engage in ministry that is defined by mutuality and partnership, seeking to expand the mission of God already present and active in people and places.

Support the ministries of [missionaries working around the world](#), Advance #00779Z.

## Prayer Requests

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### UMM BBQ SALE

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### 2023 CHARGE CONFERENCE

The 2023 Charge Conference will be held on Monday, October 30th, 6pm @ First UMC Henderson. Plank Chapel UMC will be clustered with Bethel UMC, Flat Rock UMC & FUMC Henderson. All conference paperworks must be submitted on or before October 15th.

### BLESSING BOX

In 2022, Plank Chapel UMC saw a great need in the community for those vulnerable to have access to the food they cannot always afford. And so, we birthed the Blessing Box and invited church members as well as the community to help keep the box stocked with non-perishable food items for those in need. Thank you for your continuing generous gifts and contribution to this outreach ministry.

## "Back to School" Prayer

God of all wisdom, you created us with the capacity to learn, to gain knowledge, and to grow in our understanding. As the days draw near for school to begin, we pray for students of all ages and their families, and we pray for all the teachers, helpers, school workers, and administrators.

We pray for students. We pray for minds that are open, receptive, and eager to learn. We pray for willing spirits as they encounter new classmates and new environments. We pray for guidance and discernment in all the decisions they will make each day. Lord, we ask your blessing.

We pray for teachers. We pray for strength to face new challenges as the new school year begins. We pray for patience and perseverance for the long days. We pray for spirits of hospitality as they welcome the students in their charge. Lord, we ask your blessing.

We pray for all those who work each day to support the work of learning, both in front of students and behind the scenes. For all of those who give of their time and energy in our schools, we give thanks and bless their work. May our students and teachers know they are loved and supported through their efforts. Lord, we ask your blessing.

For all these, Lord, bless them and let them be aware of your presence in hallways and classrooms. May each school day begin with excitement and energy and end with peace and rest. For these things we pray, in the name of the Father, the grace and love of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer written by Jay Locklear



The United Women of Faith welcomed the teachers and staff of Zeb Vance back to school Thursday Aug.24 with fruit, vegetables and trays of cookies.

The faculty gathered in the cafeteria where they were introduced to our new pastor Edgar DeJesus. After blessing the food the staff enjoyed their meal before going back to their rooms to get ready for open house.

Edgar, Judy, Pat Edwards, and Donald Rose enjoyed socializing with the faculty; They really appreciate the support we give them each year.

Zeb Vance is in need of colored pencils and crayons this year for supplies. They can also use sweat pants for grades 1-3 and sizes M or L for the older grades. Accidents do happen! Any questions ask Donald Rose or Pat Edwards. Thanks for your help.



September 1, 2023

## GIVING FLOWERS IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES

You are invited to generously gift flowers for God's glory and in honor or in memory of your loved ones. Please contact Judy Wilson @ [Judith9563@gmail.com](mailto:Judith9563@gmail.com) or (252) 492-0624.

## 4th Saturday Free Market

We have 2 Saturdays left for free market. September 23rd, October 28th. Bring clothing, books, household items, furniture, and groceries. Please bring them the week of August 20th and place them in the Youth room. On Friday, September 23rd, volunteers will work to set-up the Fellowship Hall. Please come out and help! Set up begins at 1 p.m.

We also need volunteers for August 26th Saturday Free Market and to help bring to the Salvation Army on Monday 25th or 26th.

## AWAKENINGS

Awakenings in an alternative worship experience at Plank Chapel UMC which includes prayer, contemporary praise & worship, coffee, scripture reading and conversation. Come join us every Sunday (except 3rd Sunday of the month) from 8am-9am in the Fellowship Hall.



[facebook.com/PlankChapelUMC](https://facebook.com/PlankChapelUMC)

[Plank\\_chapel.org](http://Plank_chapel.org)

7:05 PM Tue Aug 29

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☰ September



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Awakenings Sunday School Worship	28	29	30	31	1	2
3 Awakenings Sunday School Worship	4	5	6	7 7 PM Church Council Meet	8	9
10 Awakenings Sunday School Worship	11	12	13	14	15	16 Mitchell Family Reunion
17 UMM Sunday School Worship UWF	18	19	20 Senior Circle	21	22	23 Free Market Saturdays
24 Awakenings Sunday School Worship	25	26	27	28	29	30
1 Awakenings Sunday School Worship	2	3	4	5	6	7

