

# CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts/Open Minds/Wide Open Doors



## Pastor's Note

We often perceive generosity as something someone wants from us, yet the Bible teaches it as something God desires of us. We are in the midst of stewardship season, journeying together on a six-week sermon series entitled: "The Power of Generosity." We are learning the transformative power of generosity in our lives and why it's a practice aligned with God's intentions for all of us. We are exploring how the Bible speaks about generosity, including how followers of Jesus are to practice generosity. By practicing generosity, followers of Jesus learn what generosity does for us—changes our lives, breaks the grip of materialism, expresses compassion, builds margin, creates influence and yields joy.

This month of November, we are also celebrating Thanksgiving Day with our families and loved ones. We're reminded almost daily that our faith doesn't spare us from hardship, pain, grief, or loss. There are days when grief, anxiety and loneliness suck the life out of us. We certainly don't find ourselves feeling very grateful. When life is going well, it's easy to be grateful. But what about when life doesn't make sense? When we hit rock bottom, we have often been asked if people can—or even should—feel grateful under such dire

But the Bible is clear, even though it is difficult to hear. Apostle Paul says, "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thess. [5:16-18](#)). The words are hard but we need to wrestle with them. This is a tough verse for many people who are struggling and facing tremendous adversities in life.

You may think, surely Paul made a mistake or even that this was easy for him to say. But it wasn't. Paul suffered from some very difficult problem that he called a thorn in the flesh. He also had been run out of town, beaten, whipped, imprisoned, betrayed by friends, naked, cold, hungry shipwrecked, and stoned because of his faith. Yet, Paul never stopped giving thanks to God who is faithful and generous all the time! That is why Thanksgiving should not be a 1-day event, but must be a practice 365 days or everyday of our lives.

This Thanksgiving, let us be generous and thankful! Let us thank God for the generosity of mind, body and spirit! Let us thank God for the generosity of food, job and dwelling. Let us thank God for the generosity of family and relationships. Let us thank God for the generosity of the church and community. Let us thank God for the generosity of hope and resilience. And let us thank God singing the familiar hymn: *“Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son.”*

# Trunk Or Treat





## Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts: Join Us in Building Cleaning Kits

The Western NC Conference needs UMCOR [cleaning kits](#) to distribute in their community. Plank Chapel UMC Outward Witness Team is collecting items listed below to build and send to Western North Carolina.

### CLEANING KITS

- One five-gallon round bucket with resealable lid (14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d)
  - No screw lids
  - May be used, but must be free from all residual product
  - Advertisements on the outside acceptable
- One 32-64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner
  - No spray cleaners
  - No bleach
- One 16-34 oz. bottle dish soap
- One 4-8 oz. pump spray air freshener (liquid, not gel)
- One 6-14 oz. pump spray insect repellent (pack of 10-20 wipes also acceptable)
  - Pump spray bottles must have protective covers
- One scrub brush
  - With or without handle
- 18 reuseable cleaning wipes
  - No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels
  - No single-use wipes
  - Remove from packaging
- Five scouring pads
  - No stainless-steel pads with soap in them
  - Remove from packaging
- 36-50 clothespins
- One 50-100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic line)
- 24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45-gallon sizes)
  - Remove from packaging

- Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3 mm thickness)
  - No surgical masks
- Two pairs kitchen gloves
  - Durable for multiple uses
  - Remove from packaging
- One pair work gloves
  - Cotton with leather palm or all leather

You can donate an entire kit, or buy some of the supplies needed and they will be assembled later. You can also donate money if you are unable to shop, and the team will shop for what is needed.

**Please place all supplies in the Choir Room. (2nd door on the left in the fellowship hall).**

The cutoff date for supplies is [11/08/2024](#).

Kits will be assembled [on 11/12/204](#) – Volunteers are welcomed.

Kits will be delivered [on 11/14/2024](#)



**The United Women of Faith will again sponsor the Angel Tree for Zeb Vance angels. The tree will be in the vestibule.**

**When taking an Angel, please sign your name by the number of the Angel listed on signup sheet.**

**Please have your Angel items in by December 1st. They may be placed in the willing workers education building.**

Thank you,

Outward Witness Team

Plank Chapel UMC

**KOFFEE KORNER**

"Koffee Korner"-- a Fresh Expressions women's group that meets every first Wednesday of the month. We will meet [on November 6th, 10:00am](#) in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Jan Hicks @ [919-525-4778](tel:919-525-4778).

**BLESSING BOX MINISTRY**

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 launched the Blessing Box Ministry in 2022 and encouraged church members as well as the community to help keep the box stocked with non-perishable food items for those in need. Also, please check your bookshelves so that we can offer children and adult books as a lending library. We give thanks to God for your generous gifts and support for this outreach ministry.

**"STRONGER TOGETHER" EXERCISE CLASS**

The "Stronger Together" Exercise Class meets every Monday & Thursday @ 6:00-7:00pm. Open to everyone. For more information, please contact Debra Newman @ [252-915-7005](tel:252-915-7005).

**THANKSGIVING SUNDAY**

Come join the Thanksgiving Sunday [on November 24th, 11:00am](#), We will cover the communion table with fresh produce such as fruits, vegetables and bread to be shared to our community after the service. Please bring the fresh produce when you come to worship [on November 19th](#).

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**

On the eve of All Saints Day, we had "Light the Night" remembering those saints of the church who were gone ahead of us. [On November 3rd](#), we will continue to remember them on All Saints [Sunday, 9:30am](#) Bethel UMC & [11:00am](#) Plank Chapel UMC.



### SENIOR CIRCLE, OCTOBER 16, 2024

As the weather cools down, it is a blessing to share the warmth of fellowship at Senior Circle. After we shared blessings and concerns, Pastor Edgar spoke to us about the unpredictability of life as evidenced by hurricanes Helene and Milton. He reminded us that the power of the Holy Spirit and Christ's love will be with us in every trial to strengthen us and sustain us. Echoing the words of the hymn "Blessed Assurance", he encouraged us to turn to God's word for encouragement every day.

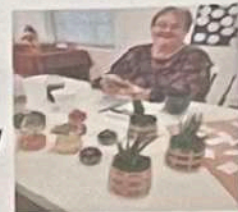


Abner Cobb and David Woodlief explain how to maintain smoke detectors.

Pastor Edgar then introduced our guests, David Woodlief, Chief of Kittrell Fire Department, and Abner Cobb, a volunteer fireman who serves Kittrell and the surrounding area. We learned about different types of fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, and fire blankets. They gave us handouts explaining top tips for fire safety and tips to prevent fires from happening in our homes.

Their dedication to their work and desire to help and protect others in time of need was evident as they answered questions and explained the different aspects of their work. They reach out to the community by visiting schools and groups interested in fire safety and the men of the fire department also sponsor community events such as the Fall Festival to be held October 26, from 10 to 3. There will be games, bouncy houses, free hot dogs and helicopters and all are welcome.

Janet Bobbitt surprised us with beautifully crafted door prizes to add to the fun. Pumpkin shapes and planters went to the people who had the lucky numbers. We never know quite what to expect at our gatherings where people share crafts, baked goodies, or just a plain old show and tell.



We would like to welcome Sylvia Cates and Debbie Englebright from Bethel UMC. We hear they make a delicious ham biscuit and we are looking forward to seeing them at the next meeting and enjoying their ham biscuits as well. New faces are always more than welcome and add to the joy of fellowship.

With  
Love,  
Your  
Friends  
at  
Senior  
Circle



### JOURNEY TEAM LUNCH MEETING

The Journey Team will have a lunch meeting [on Wednesday, November 13th, 1:00pm](#) in the Fellowship Hall to finalize plans for the [November 24th](#) Journey w/ Hayride and other topics. The Journey Team: Ron & Nancy Gustafson, Wayne & Lora Young, Peggy Hernandez, Natalie Gonzalez, Scott Ritchey, Pastor Edgar & Judy De Jesus.

### 4th SATURDAY FREE MARKET

We give thanks to everyone who volunteered and generously supported this year's 4th Saturday Free Market. Special appreciation to Sally Coghill and the team for being the hands and feet of Christ. Please note that there will be no free market this month until March 2025. We will resume either April or May 2025.

### CHANGE BUCKET

In the light of the rebuilding efforts in the Western North Carolina, all giving for the November-December 2024 Change Bucket has been designed for UMCOR US Disaster Response-Hurricane Helene.



**THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR ALL YOUR PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE & WITNESS!**



## ADVENT POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will surround the altar this Advent season. You may place a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one. Each plant costs \$14 and will be in the church from [December 8th-22nd](#). The order forms will be in church [this Sunday, November 3rd](#). Judy Wilson will need the order forms returned to her by [November 24th](#). After the [December 24th](#) Christmas Eve Service, you may take your plants home with you. If you would like to order Advent Poinsettias, please contact Judy Wilson @ [judith9563@gmail.com](mailto:judith9563@gmail.com) or [\(252\) 492-0624](tel:(252)492-0624).

## CHANGE BUCKET & RAINBOW COVENANT

The Change Bucket for June-October 2024 has been designated for "Rainbow Covenant". To be a "Rainbow Covenant" church, Plank Chapel UMC must pay 100% of all 2024 apportionments and give a contribution in each of the five lanes. Therefore, please give generously to the Change Bucket for each lane:

August 2024 Lane 3: National Missions (Native American Comprehensive Plan #982615)

September 2024 Lane 4: World Missions (Rise Against Hunger #S-00101)

October 2024 Lane 5: UMCOR (Global Migration #3022144)





**UNITED METHODIST MEN**

All men are invited to our monthly United Methodist Men Breakfast Fellowship every third Sunday of the month [from 8:00am until 9:00am](#). Our next breakfast fellowship is

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

The United Women in 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. Our next regular meeting will be [on Sunday, November 17th, 3:00pm](#). All women are invited!



The Connect Church Cohort of Plank Chapel UMC held its final meeting on October 21st w/ Coach John Parker.

**Here are the major actions:**

1. The Cohort unanimously approved the two documents-- "The Gathering" & "Journey" Action Plans.
2. The documents are "comma" and not "period". They are still subject to modification and adaptation based on the feedback to be received at the [November 2nd](#) gathering.
3. The proposed budget for both projects are still preliminary and subject to adjustments.
4. Pastor Edgar will submit this week the online form to NC Rural Center.
5. The Cohort will have an interview-panel discussion format presentation (15 minutes) at the [November 2nd](#) Celebration Gathering in Raleigh.
6. Scott Ritchey will do the Introduction (Plank Chapel UMC Background & Demographics). [7. Jan](#) Hicks will be the interviewer.
8. "The Gathering" Panelists include: Debra Newman, Susan & Martha Sears, Lorraine Abbott.
9. "Journey" Panelists include: Wayne & Lora Young, Lorraine Abbott. We will contact Nancy Gustafson if she can attend the [November 2nd](#) gathering.
10. The Panelists will meet together as needed [before November 2nd](#) so that everyone is ready for the talking points.

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

You are invited to generously give flowers on Sunday Worship Services 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](tel:(252)492-0624).

## **SENIOR CIRCLE**

Senior Circle is a wonderful way to meet new friends, build relationships and have fun among fellow Christians! We meet every third Wednesday of the month with a program and light lunch @ Plank Chapel UMC Fellowship Hall. We will meet again [on Wednesday, November 20th, 10:00am](#) and every third Wednesday of the month. Bring your family and friends!

## **CHANGE BUCKET**

In the light of the rebuilding efforts in the Western North Carolina, all giving for the November-December 2024 Change Bucket has been designated for UMCOR US Disaster Response- Hurricane Helene.

11. The presentation questions include: *What is the community challenge you want to address? How would you address the challenges? What are the systemic causes of this challenge? What are your "aha moments" during the process?*

12. The Panelists must highlight the assets, gifts and strengths of the church and the community (asset-based approach) during the presentation.

13. The Panelists must be ready also to respond to the "friendly sharks" feedback questions: *Does the project address the systemic issue? Did you form new relationships as well as strengthen existing ones as part of this process? Do you plan to continue to seek out new partnerships and opportunities for collaboration? Did a theme of common gifts on the team emerge? Does your project proposal utilize these gifts to the fullest extent possible? What is the community issue your team is trying to address and how do you know it is actually an issue? Is the project realistic and sustainable?*

14. The Action Plan will be presented for approval to the Church Council [after November 2nd](#) Celebration Gathering in Raleigh.

In closing, I'm deeply grateful to God for the commitment of the Connect Church Cohort and the people of Plank Chapel UMC.

Please continue to hold the Connect Church 2024 process in your prayers.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Edgar

## Prayer Requests

Tim Smith, Tonja Tooley, Tilley Hughes, Evie Odom, Frances Beckham, Faye Moss, Anne Vanzandt, Ricky Satterwhite, Sammy Burgess, Florence Pernell, Nancy Leonard, Bessie Newman, Fawn Westmoreland, Jeanette Mullen, Rose Marshall, Earlean Stainback, Henry Turner Parks, Alston Monroe, Bob Kemp, Ronnie Currin and communities affected by Hurricanes Helene & Milton. Shut-Ins: John & Patricia Rogers, Martha Rowland, Kay Deans, Ben & Jackie Brown, Virgie Eaves, Freddie McGhee & Frances Roberts. (For prayer request, please call [919-418-0682](tel:919-418-0682) or email Pastor Edgar @ [edejesus@nccumc.org](mailto:edejesus@nccumc.org).)

## AWAKENINGS

Renew, fresh and revive your spirit as we worship our Awesome God at "Awakenings" every [Sunday, 8:00am-9:00am](#) (except third Sunday of the month). "Awakenings" offers contemporary music, come-as-you-are setting, relevant Bible-based conversation and a good cup of coffee! The "Awakenings" will meet [on November 3rd](#), 10th & 24th.

## PLANK CHAPEL UMC CHOIR

Plank Chapel UMC Choir meets for practice on the following dates and time. If you are musically inclined and willing to offer your gifts and talents, we would love to have you join the choir!

[November 6th, 3:00pm](#)  
[November 20th, 3:00pm](#)  
[December 4th, 3:00pm](#)  
[December 18th, 3:00pm](#)

## WEDNESDAY ONLINE PRAYER MEETING

Prayer Warriors are invited to join the Wednesday Online Prayer Meeting every week [from 7:00-7:30pm](#). We will meet [on November 6th](#), 13th, 20th & 27th.

Edgar Raymund A. DeJesus is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/96731072214?pwd=z6O3HHRhaCw13h03XmuULTm0Y9A4RJ.1>

Meeting ID: 967 3107 2214  
 Passcode: 1RL4uP



Rooted in Love  
 Rural Church Gatherings

Bethel UMC & Plank Chapel UMC are participating in "Rooted in Love" Leadership Training jointly sponsored by Center for Leadership Excellence & the Duke Endowment. This short-term leadership training aims to develop and equip our lay leadership for hospitality ministry and the "how to" in terms of reaching out and building relationships for Jesus Christ to new and diverse people in our community. Each church that fully participates in the program will receive a \$750 mini-grant to spruce up a sign, build a welcome cart, throw a neighborhood block party, improve food ministry outreach, or run a campaign on social media.

**The first in-person gathering will be on Saturday, November 2nd, 9am-2pm @ Creedmoor UMC (214 Park Avenue, Creedmoor, NC).** Here are the teams:

**Plank Chapel UMC**

**Team**

Joni Ayers  
Natalie Gonzalez  
Lori Litton  
Peggy Hernandez  
Ron & Nancy Gustafson  
Abner & Pam Cobb  
Pastor Edgar



**Rooted in Love**  
Rural Church Gatherings

**Bethel UMC Team**

Debbie Englebright  
Sylvia Cates  
Garry Dickerson  
Pastor Edgar

**Session 1 – *Rooted in Hospitality: Cultivating Hospitable Churches and Congregations*, with [Jason Moore](#) *November 2, 9am-2pm*, Creedmoor UMC, *214 Park Ave. Creedmoor* Sometimes, we have blind spots and all churches have visitors who come and do not return. Our focus will be equipping leaders to know what to do to help newcomers feel like they belong from day one**

**Session 2 – *Rooted in Mission: Moving from Charity to Solidarity*, with [Dr. Margaret Brunson](#) *February 1, 9am-2pm*, Plank Chapel UMC, *3047 Bobbitt Road, Kittrell* This session will help churches understand “the why” when planning and initiating church and community mission work. Congregations will better understand how to walk alongside their neighbors in partnership instead of through charity alone.**

**Session 3 – *Rooted in Relationship: Seeing Your Neighbor*, with [Dr. Margaret Brunson](#) *March 29, 9am-2pm* Spring Valley UMC, *955 Spring Valley Rd, Henderson***

As disciples, we are called to develop and deepen friendships and relationships with those who are different from us. This is key to living fully as the body of Christ. During this session, you will have a chance to develop skills to connect authentically with others.

**Session 4 – *Reflections*, Date TBD, Mt. Carmel UMC, 101 Mt. Carmel Rd, Henderson**

Since change takes time and reflection, we will schedule a shorter reflection session in May/ June. This will be an opportunity for each church to share any “wins” and learnings while sharing a final meal together.

**For more information: [www.nccumc.org/leadership/rooted-in-love](http://www.nccumc.org/leadership/rooted-in-love)**