



Pastor's Note

On March 5th Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent— a journey of self-reflection, of spiritual examination and re-committing our lives to Jesus Christ. We are invited to focus away from our self-centered appetites and ambitions to the contemplation of our limits, mortality and need of God. Lent offers a “reality check” and to remember Christ’s suffering and death on the cross, and to celebrate His resurrection on Easter morning.

Lent also challenges us to ask this vital question in life: How well do you know Jesus? I think about this often, and I always come to the same realization that I don't know Jesus anywhere near as well as I would like to know Him. Many of us are on the same situation. The desire is there, but life gets in the way. There are times when we seem to be making great progress, and other times when we wonder if we know Jesus at all. But we always arrive back at the same inspiring idea: “If there is one person that we should each get to know in a deeply personal way, it is Jesus the carpenter from Nazareth, the itinerant Preacher, the Son of God, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, the Lamb of God, the Messiah, the Alpha and the Omega, the Chosen One, the Light of the World, the God-Man, the Healer of our souls.”

Therefore, now is the time to rediscover Jesus! Throughout the Lent & Easter season, we will journey together on a 12-week sermon series on “Rediscovering Jesus” inspired from Matthew Kelly’s book, “Rediscover Jesus”. At a time when so many people are spiritually disillusioned and searching for ways to live, love, work, and play that nurture the soul rather than destroy it, this sermon series hopes to encourage us in our weariness, challenges us in our comfort and invites us to rediscover Jesus and the beautiful possibilities God places before us daily. I hope and pray that you will not miss any Sunday worship service. Now is the best time to rediscover Jesus!

Finally, I would like to share with y'all some important dates regarding this year's Lent, Holy Week and Easter:

March, 5, 2025 Ash Wednesday Service, 6:00pm @ Bethel UMC

April 5, 2025 The Gathering, 4:00pm-6:00pm @ Plank Chapel UMC

April 13, 2025 Palm Sunday Service, 9:30am @ Bethel UMC, 11:00am @ Plank Chapel UMC,

April 13, 2025 Community Easter Hunt, 3:00pm @ Plank Chapel UMC

April 17, 2025 Maundy Thursday Service & Love Feast, 6:00pm @ Plank Chapel UMC

April 18, 2025 Joint Good Friday Service, 12noon @ St. Peter UMC Oxford

April 18, 2025 Good Friday Service Tenebrae Service, 6:00pm @ Plank Chapel UMC

April 20, 2025 Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30am or before sunrise @ Plank Chapel UMC

April 20, 2025 Pancake Breakfast Fellowship & Flowering of the Cross after Easter Sunrise Service @ Plank Chapel UMC

April 20, 2025 Easter Sunday Worship Celebration & Holy Communion, 9:30am @ Bethel UMC, 11:00am @ Plank Chapel UMC

April 27-30, 2025 Kittrell Community Tent Revival, 6:30pm-8:30pm nightly @ Kittrell Community Center

Let me close this note with a prayer from the words of Rev. Dr. Michael Blair— *“May your journey bring healing and renewed hope and commitment to the struggle of the fullness of life for all. May you be patient in the journey; learning to sit with the pain, hurt, and discomfort we experience. May you be gracious to yourself and others. May you be attentive to the noise and the silence, May you listen deeply and may you be transformed so that your journey lead you to be “repairers of the breach, and restorer of streets to live in.” In Jesus’ Name. Amen.*

A black poster with a white cross on the left side. The text is in yellow and white. At the bottom, there is a red banner with white text.

**KITTRELL
TENT
REVIVAL**
Apr 27th - 30th @ 7pm
27 W Main St. Kittrell
One Group for One Purpose: To Lead People to Christ



WEDNESDAY ONLINE PRAYER MEETING

Prayer Warriors are invited to join the Wednesday Online Prayer Meeting every week from 7:00pm-7:30pm. We will meet on March 19th & 26th. There will be no Wednesday Online Prayer Meeting on March 5th (Ash Wednesday) and March 12th (Conversation & Visioning).

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer Requests

Tim Smith, Frances Beckham, Faye Moss, Ricky Satterwhite, Sammy Burgess, Bessie Newman, Fawn Westmoreland, Rose Marshall, Alston Monroe, Bob Kemp, Ronnie Currin, Brooklyn Nugent, Jeanette Weaver, Alice Ferguson, Angie Rowland, Jimmy Bizzell, Debra Flemming, Kerry Alexander, Sally Coghill, Luz De Jesus and Kittrell community. Shut-Ins: John Rogers, Martha Rowland, Kay Deans, Ben & Jackie Brown,

Lent, Holy Week & Easter 2025

Ash Wednesday Service 6:00pm @ Bethel UMC, March 5, 2025

The Gathering, 4:00pm-6:00pm @ Plank Chapel UMC, April 5, 2025

Palm Sunday Service, 9:30am @ Bethel UMC, 11:00am @ Plank Chapel UMC, April 13, 2025

Community Easter Egg Hunt, 3:00pm @ Plank Chapel UMC, April 13, 2025

Maundy Thursday Service & Love Feast, 6:00pm @ Plank Chapel UMC, April 17, 2025

Joint Good Friday Service, 12noon @ St. Peter UMC Oxford, April 18, 2025

Good Friday Service Tenebrae Service, 6:00pm @ Plank Chapel UMC, April 18, 2025

Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30am or before sunrise @ Plank Chapel UMC, April 20, 2025

Pancake Breakfast Fellowship & Flowering of the Cross @ Plank Chapel UMC, right after the Easter Sunrise Service, April 20, 2025

Easter Sunday Worship Celebration & Holy Communion, 9:30am @ Bethel UMC, 11:00am @ Plank Chapel UMC, April 20, 2025

Kittrell Community Tent Revival, 6:30pm-8:30pm nightly @ Kittrell Community Center, April 27-30, 2025

KOFFEE KORNER

"Koffee Korner"-- a Fresh Expressions women's group that meets every first Wednesday of the month. We will meet on March 5th, 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Nancy Gustafson @ [203-232-1145](tel:203-232-1145).

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).

Update on Conversation & Visioning w/ Plank Chapel UMC

We had eighteen leaders that met on February 5th for a "Conversation & Visioning" at Plank Chapel UMC. We opened the gathering singing together, "The Church's One Foundation". Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. David Joyner led the devotion and challenged us to "Reclaim Our Story" and "Revive Our Spirit", seeking the Holy Spirit to renew our energy and excitement both individually and collectively as the body of Christ.

After the devotion, we divided ourselves into three conversation groups and spent time listening and responding to questions: **What is the church called "to do" and called "to be"? What is the mission of God in which the church is privileged to participate?**

Rev. Joyner led us deeper into the conversation about the stories of Plank Chapel UMC-- "Who are we? Why was it organized and what was it known for? And then, the participants were invited to discern and wrestle with deeper questions such as **"Why are you going to this church?, "What makes your church so different?"** Some of the responses: "We are a church that has a rich history." "Our church is the hub of the community." "The church has been a gathering place." "The church provides a sense of stability with more than 240 years of history."

Rev. Joyner shared some vital information from the MissionInsite regarding community demographics such as population, educational attainment, family income and diversity. The MissionInsite is just one of the tools in reading the community. The most important thing is to recognize where God is at work in the community and become involved! Copies of MissionInsite will be shared to the lay leadership.

Finally, Rev. Joyner humbly acknowledged some of the "messy things" that happened in The United Methodist Church. And yet, even in the midst of this, God is still doing amazing things in the North Carolina Conference such as the Methodist Home for Children and the mission work in Western North Carolina. And he is grateful for the wonderful things that are happening at Plank Chapel and hopeful for its future. **He further appreciated the Plank Chapel Church Council for accomplishing its business meeting in less than ten minutes and spent more time engaging in conversation and visioning on "how to be the church".**

"The visioning process tonight is just the beginning and we need to continue discerning and wrestling with those vital questions." We will schedule the next "Conversation & Visioning" sometime soon.

Pastor Edgar recognized Rev. Joyner's leadership among us and presented him with an appreciation gift. Rev. Joyner closed the gathering with a prayer and sending forth.

Overall, it was a Spirit-filled and life-giving gathering! Thanks be to God!



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. Our next meeting is March 19th, 10:00am. All are invited!

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 March 2nd, 9th, 23rd & 30th.

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, March 16th, 3:00pm. All women are invited!

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men will have its regular monthly Breakfast Fellowship on March 16th from 8:00am-9:00am. All men are invited!



Good news! Plank Chapel UMC received the \$10K Duke Endowment grant on February 2025 as part of the Connect Church process. Praise the Lord!

The next step now is for the Connect Church Team to meet so that we can discuss how these funds will be utilized to provide an inclusive, accessible and holistic gathering place to the community through "Journey" and "The Gathering". We will also discuss and develop specific strategies on how we connect the project with our community partners such as Community Watch, Kittrell Fire Department, Vance-Granville Community College & Salvation Army.

From the words from Rev. Darren Crofts of NC Rural Center... "It's hard to believe 90 days have passed since our celebration event in Raleigh. I wanted to take a moment to celebrate you, the Connect Church Team, and the incredible work you continue to do in your community. Your commitment to strengthening your church's impact is so inspiring, and I know the journey is just beginning - can't wait to see how it goes! As you continue moving forward, please know that our Faith in Rural Communities team is here to support you. Whether you need guidance, encouragement, or just someone to process next steps with, we're only an email or phone call away. Attached, you'll find a small inspiration for the road ahead—something to remind you that the work you do matters. You might remember creating it."

"being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6, NIV)

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Edgar



The conversation and visioning process continues! We invite the Church Council, members and active worshippers to the Part 2 "Conversation & Visioning" on Wednesday, March 12th, 6:00pm-8:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please mark your calendar ahead!

We are grateful to Heritage District Superintendent Rev. Dr. David Joyner, who accepted our invitation again to continue leading the process.

Between now until March 12th, we encourage the Awakenings, Connect Church Cohort, Adult Sunday School Class, United Women in Faith, Methodist Men, Stronger Together, Journey Planning Team and other church groups to discuss and respond collectively on the following questions:

1. Who are we as Plank Chapel UMC? Why was it organized and what was it known for?
2. Why are you coming to this church? What makes this church so different?
3. What is the church called "to do" and "to be"?

You may submit your responses to either Lorraine Abbott or Pastor Edgar. We will include them along with the February 5th responses.

Let us join together in praying for the Holy Spirit to renew and revive us!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Edgar

PLANK CHAPEL UMC CHOIR

If you are musically inclined and willing to offer your gifts and talents, we would love to have you join the choir! We have Choir Practice every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. For the month of March, we will practice on March 12th & 26th, 3:00pm.

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 or (252) 492-0624.

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 book shelves 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.

CHANGE BUCKET

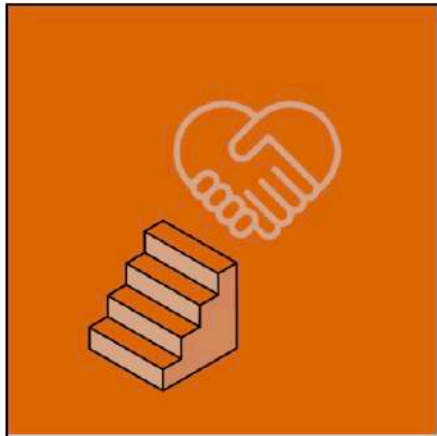
The March-April 2025 Change Bucket has been designated for Methodist Home for Children.

- Methodist Home for Children works with children who've been neglected, abused, and traumatized.
- We work with adults who lack basic coping and parenting skills.
- We work with juvenile offenders who are unparented, failing in school, looking for acceptance in all the wrong places
- We work with teens who are struggling with mental illness and substance abuse.
- We work with children who are diagnosed with severe emotional and developmental disorders.
- We work with preschoolers who are at risk already for falling behind in life. Here's how we do it: Foster Care & Adoption, Family Preservation, Early Childhood Education, Juvenile Justice & Specialized Services



Bending Toward Justice

*Steps toward Beloved Community
through a learning conversation on race and the church.*



When: March 2, 4-6pm
Where: Wake Forest UMC Family Life Center
905 S. Main St.
Wake Forest, NC

Martin Luther King Jr. said the arc of the moral universe is long and it bends toward justice. If that's true, then sometimes it's helpful and necessary to survey the landscape to see where we are now as United Methodist Churches so we know what steps to take next.

The United Against Racism Team of Wake Forest UMC and Village Church Rolesville invites clergy and laity of the Heritage and Capital Districts to a time of learning and conversation around the next steps God is calling local United Methodist Churches to take to deepen their commitment to racial justice and beloved community.

Join us on March 2 from 4-6pm as we hear the wise voices of Rev. Alma Tinoco-Ruiz, Rev. Justin Coleman and Austin Holland share about why they are United Methodist, their experiences as clergy and staff of color in the UMC, and what they see as opportunities for our local churches to take practical steps toward justice and beloved community.

Participants will also gather at a table with others to discuss, share and learn together. The goal is that everyone who comes will leave with one practical next step they and their church small group might take to follow Jesus while being committed to a diverse and justice seeking church.

Contact Jane Currin (member of United Against Racism Team) at janecurrin10@gmail.com with any questions regarding this event.



OPEN HOUSE!



Save The Date

Sunday, April 6, 2025
1:00 - 5:00 pm

Our annual open house is a great time to try out some of the activities, meet the staff, and show camp to a friend. Come join us for a free day of fun for the whole family. Know someone who may be interested in camp? Invite them to come too!

Share This Email

Share This Email

WHAT WE DO

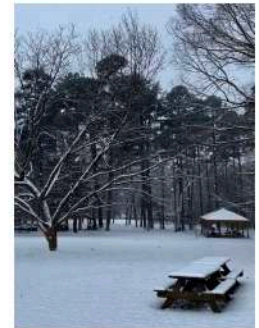
Come experience fun, hospitality, excitement, and growth on our 362 acres of hardwood forests. We offer group reservations throughout the year, an after-school program that provides outside play, horses for the beginner to the more advanced, and a summer camp program that allows campers to grow in relationship to God and others. Consider us for your spiritual, family, group, or personal formation.

Summer Camp



Stuck inside because of the snow day? Use this time to register for camp! Even though there is snow on the ground it is never too early to plan for the summer!

We've added several new programs this year, including a high school farm camp, a wilderness adventure day camp, and more! Make sure to check out all the offerings today!



(A picture of camp in the snow today!)

Register Here!

Where Campers and Counselors play outside in a place where safety comes first, silliness is encouraged, discovery is inevitable, friendships grow, and faith becomes real.

Horse Programs



Spring Riding Lessons

Come learn to ride at Chestnut Ridge!

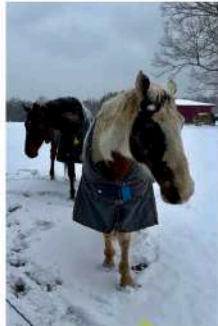
Offered Weekdays [Mar 3 - May 15](#)

[Learn More](#)

Support our Future Equestrian Center

Snowy and rainy weather presents a number of challenges for our equestrian program. Our equestrian center will offer a helpful solution to many of these challenges and allow us to continue to grow this program. Consider supporting us today - You can even leave your mark on this center by ordering a commemorative brick or paver!

[Learn More](#)



Join us for Intersession Camps!



We have **intersession camps** available during Spring Break! Sign up your camper(s) today!

March, 17-21 HES
[March 24-28](#) HES/TES
[March 31- April 4](#) HES/TES/OCs
[April 14-18](#) ABSS

[Click Here to Register](#)

Community Farm

Thanks to everyone to come by the Farm Open House last month! We welcomed many new people to our space and enjoyed connecting with you around gardening, faith, family, and s'mores!

In addition to our recurring community farm programs, you are invited to our upcoming Pancake Breakfast!

[Visit our Website](#)



Preschool Adventures

Winter has brought so many discoveries for the Chestnut Ridge Chickadees! The children excitedly looked for evidence of Frosty and Elsa visiting Camp and leaving frozen surprises each day. From hammering and stomping ice, ice skating, and exploring the frozen lake to melting ice over the fire and watching snowflakes collect on our journals as we drew, the cold weather has not slowed us down one bit. On the extra cold mornings, we have been balancing our icy explorations with a warm fire, hot tea, hand warmers, cooking snack over the fire, and taking warm up breaks in the cabin to keep our bodies warm. We are grateful for these organic learning opportunities that nature provides us and are so blessed to share these moments together!

[Text Link](#)



Journey Youngsters Kept Busy With Various Activities

Journey children and youth met Sunday, Feb. 23, in Fellowship Hall for an evening of games, devotionals and food

- Wayne Young of the leadership team opened the gathering with a prayer, followed by a face-to-face ice breaker coordinated by Pastor Edgar and Judy DeJesus.
- Lora and Wayne Young got game activities started with a lively session of Pictionary, in which all of the kids had an opportunity to draw while others guessed what each object was.
- A variety of other tabletop games followed as well as outdoor corn hole, thanks to mild weather.
- At the close of game time, Pastor Natalie Gonzalez presented a devotional, asking the youngsters what they thought was the real meaning of love. She followed with a blessing for the evening meal.
- Those in attendance were treated to grilled cheese sandwiches, tacos, ice cream cake and brownies. Martha Rowland sponsored the food.
- Peggy Hernandez concluded activities with the kids making personal key chains.

The next meeting of Journey will be 4 to 6 p.m., Sunday, March 23.







MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Rick Edwards - Mar 1, 2025.

Casey Rowland Mozingo - Mar 5, 2025.

Barbara Hendley -, Mar 7, 2025.

Frances Roberts - March 9, 2025.

Richard Coghill - Mar 13, 2025.

Patricia Rogers - March 23rd, 2025

Cameron Nugent, - Mar 23rd, 2025

Olivia Knapp Caviness - Mar 24, 2025

Martha Ann Sears Mar 24, 2025

Pat Fuller - Mar 26,2025

CT Thompson - Mar 29, 2025

ANNIVERSARY'S

David and Karin Driver - Mar 7, 2025

John and Patricia Rogers - Mar 23, 2025