

## Pastor's Note

Warm greetings in the Name of our Risen Savior!

This month of April, we are continuing our journey on the season of Lent that began on Ash Wednesday and culminates on Holy Week and the glorious Easter Sunday. This is a season of self-reflection, self-examination, and re-committing our lives to Jesus Christ. But how well do you know Jesus? Have you ever met someone and discovered he was nothing like what you thought he would be? Before you met him, you knew about him. But knowing about someone is not the same as knowing someone. If there is One we should each get to know in a deeply personal way, it is Jesus. That is why we are continuing our sermon series on "Rediscovering Jesus" throughout Lenten and Easter season.

Moreover, during this time, there is a temptation among us Christians to rush from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday without going through the seriousness of betrayal, passion, suffering and death of Jesus on Holy Week. It disturbs our modern sensibilities and makes our old nature squirm. We would rather hear stories of glory and triumph, not humiliation and defeat. And so, we skip over Holy Week and we go straight to Easter Sunday, or we try to lighten up Holy Week in the name of relevance.

As followers of Christ, the crucifixion of Jesus is the very core of what we believe. It is the climax of Jesus' mission and purpose to humanity. At the cross, Jesus conquered sin, death and even the devil. And so, we do not avoid Holy Week and the cross, but at the same time, we do not shrink the entire Christian faith into Good Friday. Instead, we understand everything in life through the lens of what Jesus did for us at the cross. In other words, we cannot fully understand Easter without Good Friday, just as we cannot fully understand new life and resurrection without first knowing suffering and death.

Therefore, instead of jumping to the Easter celebration that lies ahead, I encourage everyone not to miss any Sunday and Holy Week. I hope that you will be able to attend the Palm Sunday Service where we will remember Jesus' triumphant entry to Jerusalem. On Maundy Thursday, we will gather for worship with Hand-Washing, Love Feast and Stripping of the Church. Rev. Ronnie Morton and Garry Dickerson will be our Guest Speakers. While on Good Friday, we will have Joint Service at St. Peter UMC in Oxford with neighboring United Methodist churches and Tenebrae Service at Plank Chapel UMC.

Finally, on Easter Sunday, all are invited for the Easter Sunrise Service at Plank Chapel UMC to be followed by Pancake Breakfast Fellowship & Flowering of the Cross. We will culminate our Easter Sunday Celebration w/ Holy Communion at 9:30am Bethel UMC & 11:00am Plank Chapel UMC.

Indeed, Easter is coming! The end of the story is Christ's victory over death, evil, hatred and prejudice. But we got to journey through the rest of the Holy Week to see the bigger picture of God's plan for all of us!

***Let us pray: Risen Savior, You conquered the grave, and we are singing for Your glory. Bless us this morning with resurrection rampage— a rampage that summons us to shout yes to the birth of new creation in our midst. May we experience the birth quakes of new life in our lives, in our church, and in our communities. The Son is up! And we are up with the Son, despite all those things that seek to pull us down to despair. We are Your Easter people. Amen.***

## **Holy Week & Easter 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**

**Dinner Church, 6:00pm @ Bethel UMC, April 16, 2025**

**Maundy Thursday Service, Love Feast & Stripping of the Church,  
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, 7:00pm-8:30pm nightly @ Kittrell Community  
Center, April 27-30, 2025**



We are excited and grateful to share with y'all that "Journey" of Plank Chapel UMC was selected as a North Carolina Conference Mission Seed Fund recipient for 2025 in the amount of \$6,195.00. Praise the Lord!

The grant is an affirmation of what God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, is already doing through "Journey". The grant is also an opportunity for us to continue re-imagining the church, and to encourage everyone to be intentional and strategic in engaging in ministry with children and youth to the community.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Edgar

### **Purpose of Mission Seed Funds**

*We are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, a world that because it is transformed, begins to reflect the prayer that we so often pray ... "on earth as it is in heaven."*

*In such context, Mission Seed Funds are designed to facilitate and encourage United Methodist congregations of the NC Conference in risk-taking ministry and radical hospitality. These Mission Seed Funds are provided to resource NCC local churches, to help the church engage in ministry that is transformative for the world and the church, to provide support in growing committed disciples, and reaching into the world in community with the poor, with children, and all who are the least, the last, and the lost. Seed Funds are not intended to be ancillary funding for local church budget. Seed Funds are specific to new ministry development, encouraging ministry with a specific focus of outreach to people who are not yet part of the existing congregation through ministries of service, evangelism, and presence. As such, Mission Seed Funds are for more than the normal in-house activities.*



We had twelve leaders that met on March 12th for the second session of "Conversation & Vision" at Plank Chapel UMC. We opened the gathering singing together, "Goodness of God". Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. David Joyner led the devotion from 1 John 3:1-3 about seeing the goodness and love of God given to us... that we should be called children of God. It was a message of hope encouraging the leaders of Plank Chapel UMC to hold on to our faith in Christ Jesus because we have experienced God's faithfulness, love and generosity in our lives and in the life of the church. Rev. Joyner further said that "If we understand who God is, then what is our mission as a church?"

After the devotion, we divided ourselves into two conversation groups and spent time listening and responding to the discussion questions: (1) What is our mission (what we are called to do) as a church? (2) Who best embodies what we're about and want to be about in the future? What is about them that makes them the embodiment of our mission? (3) What are our core values? Core values describe who we are, how we engage in ministry and what we want to be about in the future.

Here are some of the responses:

On Question 1

We are inclusive to all. We welcome everyone.

We set an example (seeing Christ through us.)

We are part of the community.

We connect people to Christ.

We teach Christ and minister to everyone.

We are planting a seed.

We put faith into action.

We recognize the Spirit calling.

We have faith in action.

To create an atmosphere of welcoming. Be open to everyone.

On Questions 2 & 3

Learning, Fellowship & Bible

Tell our story as children of God

Inclusive, Inviting & Welcoming (non-judgmental)

Helpful

Unselfish

Generosity

Trustworthy

Thoughtful

Humble (don't want to be recognized)

Donald Rose Mcgee and her dedication. She is generational.

Keep our listening alive.

John Rogers, Greg Hunt & Patricia Rogers

Rooted as a rural family.

We are family.

Be an example.

A church that believes in God and teaches the message of Christ.

## **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.



## **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 April 16th, 10:00am. All are invited!





**UNITED METHODIST  
MEN & PANCAKE  
BREAKFAST  
FELLOWSHIP**

The United Methodist Men will host a Pancake Breakfast Fellowship on Easter Sunday, April 20th right after the Easter Sunrise Service. All are invited!

**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, April 20th, 3:00pm. All women are invited!



Rev. Joyner led us into a deeper conversation about what it means to be an "inclusive" church? How do we communicate this to the community who has a different perception about the church and a new generation who are skeptical and don't want to be part of the institutional church? He challenged us to "change the narratives" and to "change the script" about who we are as Plank Chapel UMC. We need to be intentionally inviting people to "taste and see" what God is doing at Plank Chapel. We need to keep telling our story! We got some exciting things going here at Plank Chapel UMC. Be real, be authentic! Live on those things that God called us to be and to do. You are the next best thing!

The gathering closed with words of appreciation for the leadership of our District Superintendent and with everyone singing the "Doxology". Our next session of "Conversation & Visioning" will be on Wednesday, April 9th, 6:00pm-8:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

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

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Edgar

### March Senior Circle 2025

The March Senior Circle gathering was a perfect way to welcome spring. Janet Bobbitt presented a beautiful devotion opening with the question, "Have you seen God today?" The thought provoking question led to many beautiful ideas of the way God is visible in the world, in each other, and in His word.

After the devotion, we celebrated John Rogers's 94th birthday . Using a "This Is Your Life" format, Don Rose McGhee asked John questions about the highlights of his life. We all were blessed to see a man who worked hard serving God, his family, and his community. His humor, quick wit, and ready smile lit up the room. When asked if he had a word of wisdom for all us "young folks" , he paused, looked around the room at each person and said, "Everyone here has more wisdom than I do."



**CHECKLIST FOR A PARTY**  
Cake, candles, the happy birthday song and birthday wishes, surrounded by old friends and then THE GAMES BEGIN.



Can you guess the price today?

- PRICES IN 1931
- A DOZEN EGGS 26 CENTS
  - A GALLON OF GAS 28 CENTS
  - A POSTAGE STAMP 4 CENTS
  - A MOVIE TICKET 17 CENTS



**EVERYONE WAS A WINNER!**



*Faye,  
Thank you  
and  
God bless you  
for  
this  
beautiful book.*

*Faye Moss has kindly shared a scrapbook of early Senior Circle memories and activities. She worked diligently on programs and also wrote numerous articles for the Henderson Dispatch. As we proceed in this modern age, it is also a blessing to look back with respect and love for those who planted God's seeds of love and welcoming fellowship in our hearts.*

*With love, Your Friends at Senior Circle*



Come join the "Dinner Church" on Wednesday, April 16th, 6:00pm at Bethel UMC (4193 Fairport Road, Kittrell, NC 27544).

"Dinner Church" is a gathering of people during the month for a meal and conversation around faith. The movement gets its inspiration from the early church and Jesus' ministry through meals. An invitation to eat was an invitation to faith. Similarly, the "Dinner Church" movement centers on breaking bread and sharing God's Word with conversation.

Bring your families and friends! All are welcome!



Come join this year's Kittrell Tent Revival on April 27th-30th at Kittrell Community Center, 7:00pm nightly worship, music and preaching. Hot Dogs will be served at 6:00pm on April 27th. Bring your families & friends!

We are grateful to Plank Chapel United Methodist Men for their generous donation to the Kittrell Tent Revival. We also appreciate those who generously supported the March 29th Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser.

Finally, we will have a Prayer Walk for the Kittrell Tent Revival on Saturday, April 12th & 19th. Meet 10:00am at the Kittrell Fire Department. During the one-hour Prayer Walk, we will stop at different locations like the Kittrell Fire Department, Community Center and different streets to pray for specific needs. Please bring good walking shoes or plan to follow behind us in your car. All are welcome!

Thank y'all for helping to make the Kittrell Tent Revival possible as we offer the message of God's love, hope and healing in the community! Grace & Peace.

Pastor Edgar

### KOFFEE KORNER

"Koffee Korner"-- a Fresh Expressions women's group that meets every first Wednesday of the month. We will meet on April 2nd & May 7th, 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).

### "STRONGER TOGETHER" EXERCISE CLASS



## Day of Discovery: Exploring Our Calling

**May 31 @ 10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

700 Waterfield Ridge Place  
Garner, 27529

#### What to Expect:

- Worship & Renewal – We'll begin with a time of worship, grounding ourselves in our shared call through a remembrance of our baptism.
- Stories & Inspiration – Hear from laity who have stepped into different forms of ministry and discover what opportunities might be right for you.
- Discernment & Next Steps – Engage in a time of reflection on your spiritual gifts and where God may be leading you next.

## COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday, April 13th, 3:00pm. We need lots of individually-wrapped candies. Please bring them to the church and place them at the front pews.



## 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 April 9th & 23rd, 3:00pm.



All Christians are called to ministry. The work of the church is not just for pastors—it is for all of us. The ministry of the laity is essential for our shared mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. But how is God calling *you* to serve? And how can you best be equipped to respond to that call?

Lay Servant Ministries provides training and certifications for laity to grow as disciples and develop the skills needed to serve effectively in their local church and beyond. Whether you feel called to lead, teach, preach, or serve in mission, Lay Servant Ministries can support you in your journey.

Join us for the Day of Discovery to learn more about the different options available to laity ready to make a deeper commitment, to listen for God's voice, and to discern your next faithful step.

There's no pressure, no expectation—only an invitation to explore where God may be leading you. Whether you're just beginning to sense a nudge or you're actively seeking your next step, this day is for you.

### Schedule of the Day:

#### **10am-12pm: Listening for God's Call**

- Opening Worship, with Fairway District Superintendent Sunny Limm preaching
- Laity Stories, including a certified lay servant, certified lay speaker, certified lay minister, deaconess / home missionary, and licensed local pastor.

## 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

## 12pm-12:45pm: Catered Lunch and Sharing Our Stories

- Enjoy a catered lunch with conversation around your table. Guided questions will help us share our journeys and discern where God may be leading us next.

## 12:45-2pm: Exploring Your Spiritual Gifts

- Led by Certified Lay Minister (CLM) and CLM Training Facilitator Deborah Horton

## 2pm: Sending Forth to Claim Our Call

*2-3pm: Optional CLM Information Session*  
After our Day of Discovery, those interested in learning more about the Certified Lay Ministry Candidate Training Program will be invited to move to the Cabinet Room for an optional information session. Applications for the upcoming cohort are due in August.



### 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.

### 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 April 6th, 13th & 27th.

# Chestnut Ridge

Camp and Retreat Center

## 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

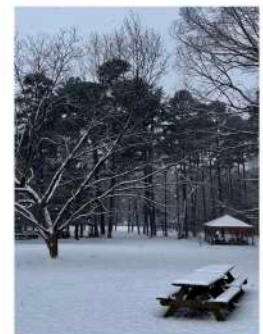
Share This Email

## 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!

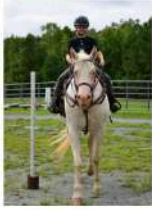
We've added several new programs this year, including a high school farm camp, a wilderness adventure day camp, and more! Make sure to check out all the offerings today!



(A picture of camp in the snow today!)

Register Here!

## Horse Programs



### Spring Riding Lessons

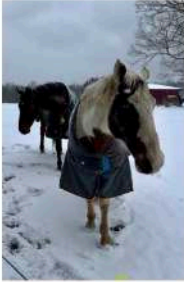
Come learn to ride at Chestnut Ridge!  
Offered Weekdays [Mar 3 - May 15](#)

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



## SEEDS of FAITH

### Free Family Lent Event - Sunday March 9

Join us at camp on Sunday, March 9 (the first Sunday of Lent) for lunch followed by storytelling and activities for the whole family. Families will leave this event with simple tools to help mark Lent; the sacred season leading up to Easter.

RSVP



### Monday Night Dinners


February through May - [5:45 pm](#) at the Morris Center (Dining Hall)  
Something special happens around a table. We hope that through weekly time together over a shared meal, families will form a community of support and encouragement as they seek to more fully integrate their faith into family life.

What is Seeds of Faith?



seeds of faith  
Families growing together

## 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


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### 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




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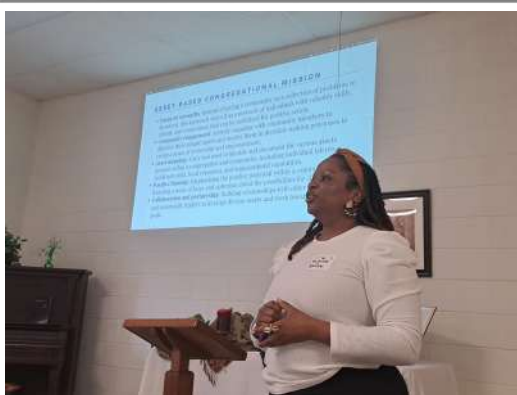
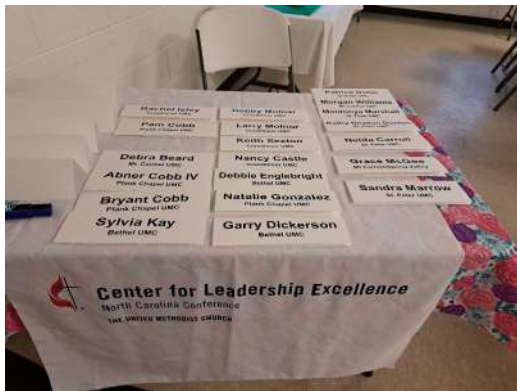
seeds of faith  
Families growing together

## 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 Lin](#)





## 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 April 2nd, 16th & 23rd. There will be no Wednesday Online Prayer Meeting on April 9th(Conversation & Visioning) & April 30th (Kittrell Tent Revival).

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



## Prayer Requests

Tim Smith, Frances Beckham, Faye Moss, Ricky Satterwhite, Sammy Burgess, Bessie Newman, Fawn Westmoreland, Rose Marshall, Alston Monroe, Ronnie Currin, Jeanette Weaver, Jimmy Bizzell, Debra Flemming, Kerry Alexander, Sally Coghill, Bryant Bobbitt, Clarence Englebright, Freddie Oettinger, Families of Priscilla Neighbors, Roy Godwin & Julia Floyd Williams & John Carlton Brown, Kittrell Community Revival & Earthquake Victims in Myanmar & Thailand. Shut-Ins: John Rogers, Martha Rowland, Kay Deans, Ben & Jackie Brown, Virgie Eaves, Freddie McGhee & Frances Roberts. (For prayer request, please call 919-418-0682 or email Pastor Edgar @ [edejesus@nccumc.org](mailto:edejesus@nccumc.org).)





**April 20th:** Haywood and Robin Bumpass.

**April 22nd:** Jamie and Lorraine Abbott.

**April 28th:** Tim and Midge Smith.

**April 28th:** Chris and Amy (Smith) Ward.



**April 3rd:** Angie Rowland, Thursday,

**April 5th:** Janet Bobbitt, Jeannette Weaver, Judy Eaves.

**April 6th:** Tim Smith, DJ Pegram

**April 13th:** Mike Ranes

**April 14th:** John Parks

**April 18th:** Virgie Eaves

**April 19th:** Kasey Denton Pegram

**April 21st:** Kay Thompson, Megan Finch

**April 23rd:** John Abbott

**April 24th:** Susan Sears, Greg Hunt

# Journey - March 2025

## Active March Meeting

Spring weather welcomed 17 Journey children and youth who participated in the March 23 gathering at Plank Chapel United Methodist Church.

Following an opening prayer by the leadership team's Wayne Young, everyone participated in a relay race on the lawn using a variety of props.

The youngsters then went into Fellowship Hall to build and paint bird houses as a reminder of God's annual renewal of plants and the return of migrating birds.

Outdoor games followed, including volleyball, four square and corn hole.

Pastor Edgar DeJesus blessed the evening food, which was provided by Beth Heaton and Daryl Spencer.

During the meal, Pastor Natalie Gonzalez offered a devotional from scripture related to God blessing us with the birds above.

Cake and cupcakes were served for dessert with a Happy Birthday song and celebration honoring Journey members Cam Nugent - who turned 18 on March 23 - and Bentley Alford - turning 8 this month.

Anyone wishing to contribute food and (or) juice and bottled water for Journey may contact Lora Young at 336-504-7247. There is also a sign up in the church Fellowship Hall.

The next Journey gathering will be at 4 p.m., Sunday, April 27.

Journey is a safe and caring space where children and youth can encounter the love of Christ Jesus through "becoming, belonging and believing."

For more information, contact Ron Gustafson at 203-641-2889 or visit the Journey website at [plankchapel.org](http://plankchapel.org).



# Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser For Kittrell Tent Revival!

